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September/October 1979 \$1.00

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In the interest of fostering open communication, **The Lesbian Tide** prints a variety of views from the lesbian, feminist, and gay communities. Our editorial perspective also includes coverage of other social change issues as they relate to women and gays. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Tide Publications nor The Editorial Board unless bylined as such.

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The Tide 8706 Cadillac Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034

Perspectives

Holly Near on Nukes, Privacy & Coming Out

By Sharon McDonald

Holly Near has been one of the most valuable resources the lesbian movement has since she came out in 1976. We gained a sister and a p.r. miracle whose long history of work in the civil rights, labor, and anti-war movements gave her both a practical political education and access to audiences as yet unexposed to feminist and lesbian politics.

Now, four years later, Holly Near is donating part of the proceeds from her concerts not to a lesbian group but to an anti-nuclear group. Once lamented by the anti-war movement for having "turned lesbian," she's now being mourned by some lesbians for having "gone anti-nuke." As one lesbian activist philosophically put it, "Holly's always been politically non-monogamous." But Near sees the anti-nuke movement as inherently feminist, and does not feel her work there is "a departure."

"I am not in any way at all leaving the lesbian or women's movement. But if we don't stop this thing (nuclear industry) there won't be anybody around to do women's music or defend lesbian mothers. What's happening with nuclear power is just a more advanced technological version of all the other things that men have ever done to us. Part of my work as a feminist is to stop the mentality of men who constantly abuse human life for their own profit. The thought of these men messing with my life and my planet just totally infuriates me. If in fact she is Mother Earth, then she's a sister, and we have to protect her.

"Women have to take a leadership role in this because we are the most tuned in to life force energies. I don't think you can say categorically that men are ready to move over and let women take this leadership, but I think women are prepared now to take leadership whether men move over or not. In the nuke movement we're encouraging women who don't want to work with men to form their own all women's groups. You also don't have to leave your lesbianism, or your feminism or your race or class to do anti-nuke work.

What we have to do is take anti-nuke sentiment to wherever we are."

Combining this anti-nuke message with her lesbian and feminist politics on stage to an expanded and diverse audience is not easy. "It's real tricky! Within the context of an anti-nuke concert I want to deal with issues of childbeating, homophobia, racism, dissability, and I want to celebrate lesbianism too. The concert is just packed with information." To meet the needs of this broadbased audience Near is incorporating poetry and storytelling into her performance. "I see storytelling almost as an art form rather than just a rap between songs."

While lesbian feminists were rejoicing when Near came out, some in her anti-war audiences felt abandoned.

"People had seen Jeff (Langley, her former accompanist) and I as this happy couple. We were the shining picture of how men and women can make it work out. Jeff and I were never lovers but people liked to pretend that we were. There are so few artists that are doing things that speak to our lives that if someone you look to as 'your' performer changes, you either feel sad or angry.

"A lot of people thought I had left Jeff in the lurch. Men would come up to me with these sad eyes and say, 'How is Jeff?' like he was sick or something, or like he had been left at the altar at the moment of truth. But it was a mutual decision; Jeff understood very clearly why it was inappropriate for a man to be my pianist at a women's music festival. There was that period of time when there was a lot of hate. Jeff and I sang some feminist songs at a Chile event, and we got letters saying how dare we talk about women at a Chile event, as if there were no women in Chile.

"A lot of those people have changed. I get letters from people who say, 'You did this and I hated you for it because I didn't want to believe, and now I believe and not only that, but I know more about it than you do and I want to pass something back to you.' It's a very nice exchange."

At the same time that audiences were examining their definition of Holly Near, she was doing the same. Self-examination and re-definition are common to the coming out process, but in the case of a public performer these steps are spotlighted in her work.

"I went through a place of being so confused about who I am really. If I hadn't been told what a woman was supposed to be like, or what an artist is supposed to be like, or even what an anti-war activist is supposed to be like, who would I be? It was almost like my body stopped moving. I just stood there and sang. I didn't want to do anything I didn't really mean. I cut my hair, I needed to know who I was without this symbolic long golden hair which was such an essential part of my appearance.

"I've seen this happen with a lot of dykes, we need to try on many different personalities and images. I think it's a good search for self, and it would be real nice in our community if we could feel OK about those little journeys through self definition.

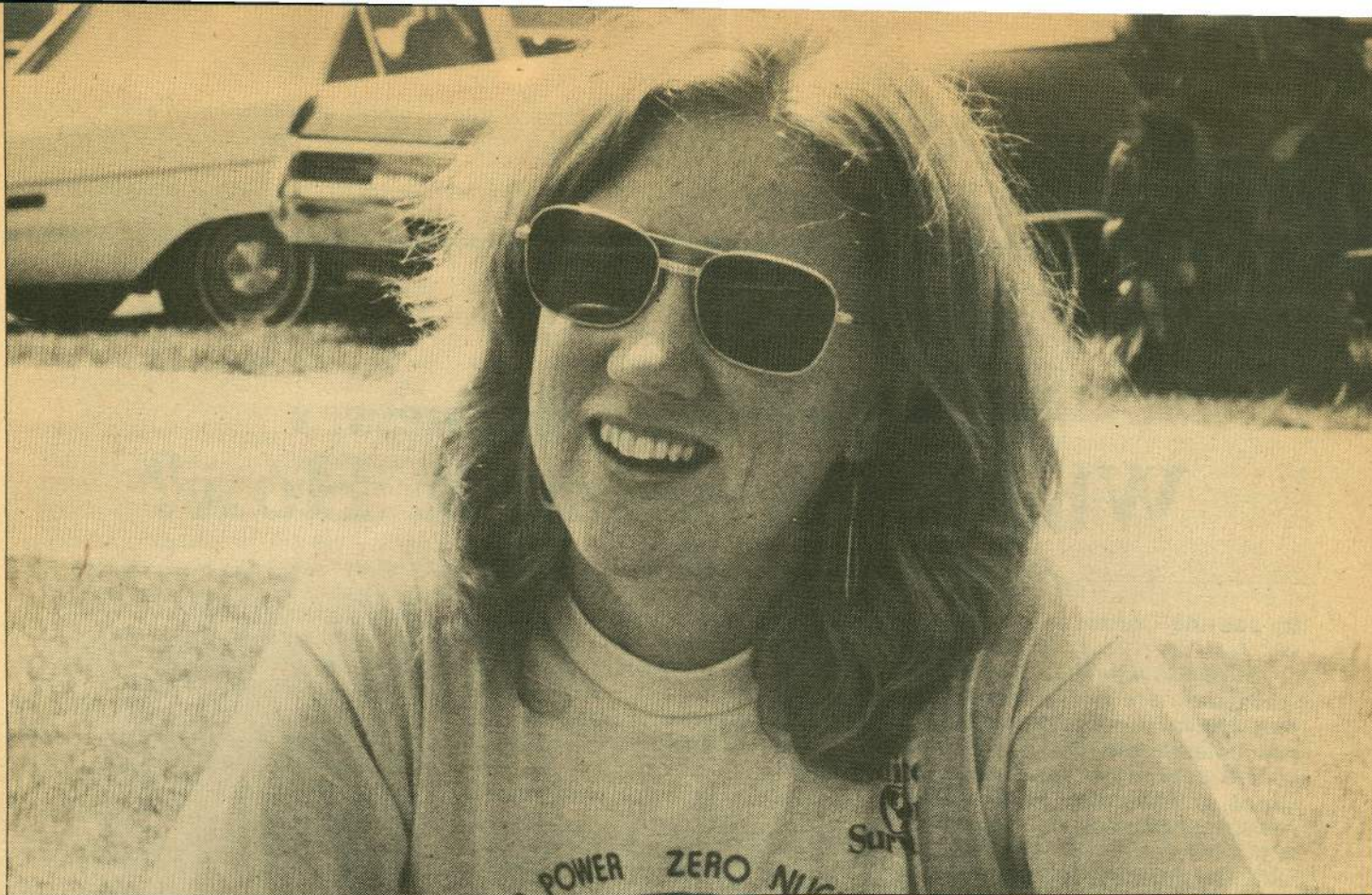
"Now I'm back to feeling like moving and also my voice is moving into experimental places. I'm remembering some of the ways I used to sing when I was younger but now I have all those years of experience to add to that."

Near jokes about her now well established wholesome image, but knows its limitations. Are there things that she'd like to do that "Holly Near" can't do?

"Yes, sure, but I'm not sure I'd say what they are because then everyone would be watching to see when I'd do them. I resent the wom-

Marianne Schneller (left) and Rachel Davies of Women On Wheels. The women's touring company produced Holly Near's August Concert "For A Nuclear Free Future." Davies told the audience, "We were willing to stand up (for feminist and lesbian causes) once, we must take that knowledge now and apply it to the nuclear danger."





en's community a lot when I feel those restrictions. But I have to take my own power and responsibility to be who I am and how I want to be, even if someone might not like me.

"I've always done my process right out in front of people. I learned about the anti-war movement with NBC watching because I was traveling with Jane (Fonda) and I made huge mistakes right out in front of everyone, and the same thing with feminism and lesbianism.

"What I would like to have private is my love life. I'd be glad to share everything else: my process, my insecurities, my politics, everything. People love to gossip and that's the one time I get angry, because I'm willing to share a lot and I'd like to have just one thing in my life that belonged to just me.

"Another thing people think is that just because you sing on stage with somebody and some really wonderful womanly energy is shared between two people on stage that you're lovers. There are many ways women share affection and energies with each other that don't have to do with sex, that's why it's so important to me that lesbianism be presented as a lifestyle issue, not just a sexual issue."

Rising concert ticket prices have added to already touchy feelings in the women's community about the money made from these events. Near says these increases are both caused by and absorbed by inflation.

Lesbian artist Holly Near will take her concert "For A Nuclear Free Future" to Northeastern cities in September and to 25 cities nationally this fall. Roadwork, of Washington, D.C. is booking and outreach will be made to the deaf, anti-nuclear, and lesbian feminist communities. Near was interviewed (see story) during her initial anti-nuke concert produced by Women On Wheels of Los Angeles in August.

"Women only see that they paid \$3 five years ago to hear a concert and now they're paying \$6. What they don't take into account is that the hall price went up, insurance went up, printing for the tickets went up, the price of paper went up, the gas to take the posters around went up, advertising to promote the concert went up, the plane ticket to get me to their city went up, everything went up. And so the ticket price goes up. The price of milk is not what it was five years ago either. But somehow within the women's community we're real offended by concert prices going up like everything else. There's a feeling that the performers are getting rich off the proceeds from the concerts and that's just not happening."

Near's last album, **Imagine My Surprise**, has been well received. "It has a softness, an acoustic sound that I think a lot of women like. From the letters I get many women say they're glad to have an album that talks about many different issues that aren't real blatantly women's issues, but are presented by a lesbian feminist. Some people thought the cover was a put on, and there was a lot of speculation about its supposed hidden meanings. But

it was much more naive than everyone thinks, that's just the way I look!"

If Holly Near's next five years are anything like her last, and if they meet her own hopes, they will be both public and productive. "I'd like for there not to be any more radiation! My politics are going to grow, so I'll let them grow in whatever direction they do. I would like to do more films, I was an actress once though I didn't have any good material to work with then, but I liked the medium a lot. I would like to do a stage show and stay put in one place every night instead of traveling. I don't know if that would be a one woman show or a musical comedy or a serious play.

"And I would like to see there be a school. I don't think I'll have the time or energy to do it, but it should be a cultural center for people who want to incorporate their feminism, lesbianism, and their global politics. It would be very strict, it wouldn't be a place where everybody could go and hang out. But people who really have commitment and perspective could go there and study to be good organizers. If you're going to do political music you have to do it in a profound way." ■

"The most discouraging thing is that when you do play by the (capitalist) rules it works, no matter how much you get trashed. On the other side, your politics can be as pure as the driven snow, and even the most political women won't give you a dime."

This statement in part reflects the frustration of lesbian owned businesses as they try to cope with economic survival today.

Lesbian Owned Businesses Who's Surviving & How?

By Jeanne Cordova

All of the women's businesses surveyed in a recent poll report that they "have experienced financial difficulties in the last year".

The national network of bookstores, presses, record companies, newspapers, and concert producers, that now represent the lesbian, feminist business community, is having to wake up to some difficult economic realities which may bring about a political and cultural recession.

The Death of Volunteerism

Asked to specify which factors are "most responsible for your current economic hardships," labor problems and production costs were cited as the most rampant culprits.

In most cases lesbian businesses were begun as political projects. Everyone had a lot of energy to give their sisters. But times change. It's

Sandy Tate (Feminist Horizons) says women calculate purchases, men don't have to.



harder to live on unemployment now, these same women are 35 instead of 25, fighting for civil rights doesn't pay the rent. "Women don't want to volunteer anymore," says Marianne Schneller of Women on Wheels, a 4 year old Los Angeles production company. "We applaud that. The staff wants to get paid, we've paid our dues."

Production costs are now driving up the price of concerts, books, albums, and newspapers. Chiefly responsible are the costs of paper and postage. "Postage rates are up again," says **Sinister Wisdom**, "It seems rates are raised every few months." It has been rumored that the Post Office is indirectly phasing out 3rd and 4th class rates. Then too, lesbian publications like **Sinister Wisdom** often cannot qualify for the cheaper 2nd class rates because their circulation or sub-to-bulk ratio isn't large enough. Lynne Shapiro, New York based editor of the annual **Write On Women!** reports postage and paper costs mean she will not be able to publish her work again. Redwood reports a 30% rise in paper costs over the last 1½ years.

Oil and Your Stereo

The oil crisis has also had an effect on the cost of records. Vinyl is made from oil and as Redwood explains, "The cost of high quality vinyl is higher now, and it's harder to get. . . When we produced an album in 1975 we didn't know that it would cost so much more to reproduce that same quality album in 1979." In 1978 it cost 36¢ per record to press, in 1979 it cost 54¢. That is a 67% rise. Redwood was in debt \$78,000 a few months ago. Olivia Records is reportedly looking at a red figure of \$100,000.

Trapped By Capitalism

The problem of not including cost of living, inflation, and other long term economic variables in

figuring budgets is another reason our businesses are having difficulties now. One respondent cites the sexist underbelly of this problem. "We didn't understand the capitalist system. Businesses make it through understanding tax breaks, p.r., efficient management, etc. We assumed we could do it our way without paying attention to any of these factors." Another owner lamented, "My 22 year old brother knows more about marketing than I do, at twice his age."

A second by product of discarding capitalist rules has been that some lesbian owned businesses have allowed their politics to run ahead of their pocketbooks. Such was the case with Diana Press, who tried to publish 11 titles in one season because they believed in the books, and Redwood's release of *Sweet Honey In The Rock*, a product which forced them to expand staff and promotion to new audiences.

A third example of how goals have come back to haunt us is what one Mid-West respondent called "our movement's masturbatory emphasis on process." Her sentiment was repeated by a West Coast lesbian who feels her business is hurting because of "concentration on internal dynamics, rather than external problems." She explained, "We fall into thinking we're not communicating, or our dynamics are unbalanced, instead of realizing we are attempting to play a game when we don't know the rules."

Kept Poor By Sexism

The poor economic position of women is also hurting businesses that rely on the woman consumer. Sandy Tate, owner of the gift shop, *Feminist Horizons*, observes the buying habits of male and female customers. "When the average male starts to purchase, he doesn't carefully tally his purchases before he has them rung up. . . (but) . . . we quite often get women who calculate

carefully before making a purchase that will involve less than five dollars."

Speaking to the noticeable decline in attendance at women's concerts, one producer said, "concert goers are feeling the economic crunch, they're more discriminating now." A west coast women's resort said they are not solvent because "our appeal is to low income women."

Another vehement complaint is that lesbian feminists don't value themselves or each other economically. "Many women feel it's unfeminist to charge competitive prices in terms of market value for services and products" writes a west coast respondent whose business is in critical shape. Exploring this psychology, a record company staffer speculates, "Women will spend \$6.00 a night in a bar, but balk at paying the same for a women's concert. It seems the things we care about we want for free." This woman suggests that lesbians who say, "Well, I don't know anything about money, but I think I'm being ripped off," ought to, "go and find out something about money."

Buy Now, Get Paid Later

A final problem exacerbating the economic crunch is that bookstores, record companies, and other businesses have to carry a large inventory that must be paid for in December, even though sales returns may not come in until the summer. As Sisterhood Bookstore, one of the largest in the nation, explains, "We want to be proud of our store, to offer as complete a selection as possible. Our customers are impressed. We are highly respected. However, we're still broke."

The Middlewoman

Then too, both consumer and producer must pay the "middlewoman" — the distributor. Bookstores used to sell concert tickets for free. Finding that this "public service" ate into paid labor, most west coast stores asked for and are now receiving 5% to 8% of the total ticket price. This is a new labor cost producers must pass along. Redwood Records also notes that in March 1978 they were paying distributors \$2.60 per album sold. This month the distributor's cut will be \$3.60.

No Bad Paper

All is not completely dismal however. Several businesses, among them Correct Line Leather of Michigan, reports positive reasons for their "well being." The wallet makers note "terrific customers, hardwork and well-timed risk taking" are keeping them stable. Paula Facine, bookkeeper of **The Lesbian**

Tide, notes, "You can count the bad checks we've received in 8 years on one hand."

Despite the lack of knowledge about an area that time and politics have forced them into, most lesbian owned businesses are carefully and optimistically racing to stay afloat.

Some adopted methods are traditional responses. Redwood, Olivia, Diana Press, and Sisterhood Bookstore have had to lay off or consolidate staff. This has resulted in breaking off some long standing work relationships, and those who remain are working longer hours.

Knowing that most of their customers are poor, many businesses have adopted price hikes only as a last resort. Nonetheless, the prices of our records, newspapers, concerts, and books have all risen. Correct Line Leather however may actually cut prices on the hope of more volume, and rather than raise their price in 1979 one lesbian publication dropped pages last spring.



Alix Dobkin drops "lesbians only" sticker.

Cultural Recession?

Redwood Records, Diana Press, and Olivia have had to put a moratorium on further production. Redwood wanted to produce *Alive!* but had to pull back because they can't afford to do so. This alternative is perhaps the most politically critical because it means a temporary arrest of the growth of women's culture as reflected in books and music. Speaking of the music not being produced, Holly Near of Redwood says, "It's sad. There are so many good artists out there."

The fact that there is no money in revolution has also caused several businesses to postpone dealing

with more controversial books, records, magazines. No longer able to take a loss, they are more inclined to stick with "sure winners." This means our political development is also being postponed.

Reaching Out For Survival

Another coping trend is that our network is beginning to appeal to higher income lesbians, women, gay men, and even straight society. To date this trend is one of marketing rather than changing the lesbian or feminist nature of the product. Some hard hit California concert producers and musicians have already opened their events to wider audiences. On the east coast, musician Alix Dobkin, long known for her lesbian separatism, has notified distributors that she will no longer place the sticker "This music is for lesbians only" on her albums. Dobkin writes, "Due to economic pressures, and changing time and feelings on my part... it is time for me to reach out to a wider audience of women."

The hardships also generate new ideas. Sisterhood Bookstore of Los Angeles has helped form a co-operative with three other local feminist bookstores. Together they will, "do joint advertising, rent booths at conferences, and combat inflation." Olivia and Redwood records are cost saving by cooperative overseas shipping. Correct Line Leather actually moved across country to bring down their housing costs. This enterprising group is planning on increasing advertising and adding new designs in an effort to increase sales. They, like several others, have applied for small business loans to buy supplies and inventory.

Other money making or money saving methods include the usual fundraiser, increased emphasis on mail order sales, tighter budgeting, promotional campaigns, stopping royalties to (and with the consent of) in-house artists, and contracting experienced professional male and female business people.

These problems taken as a lump seem insurmountable, and indeed many shoestring lesbian projects might not weather the inflationary recession we now face.

Success depends on sharing economic skills with each other and support of women who value their culture and its products.

Even with the problems, spirits seem to be high in most businesses surveyed. It is as if lesbians are taking the same zeal with which we fight politically, and are now applying that energy to fighting for our economic lives. As one spokeswoman put it, "I said 'critical' but not bankrupt. We're not going down." ■



By Chocolate Waters

The Occasion: my younger sister, Tena Pauline, has just become a Born Again Christian and is marrying an evangelist. The setting: the Hershey Rose Gardens in Hershey,

I was a Christian Bridesmaid

PA. The additional absurdity: I am to be the Maid of Honor.

Although Tena and Emanuel have been praying to God for a nice day, it has been raining all morning. I tell them that God obviously wanted a cut of the three grand that Tena is paying for the wedding. No one finds this amusing.

I am decked out in a long flowered lavender gown and am wearing flowers in my hair, which I affectionately refer to as the Crown of Thorns. Even though I have not been anywhere near a dress in over eight years, I consent to wear the outfit thinking it will come in handy later for impersonating a drag queen. My friend, Jean X, who is active in the abortion rights movement in PA, and so cannot afford to have her name associated with fundamentalists, has agreed to endure the ceremony with me.

I am extremely polite all during the "do-you-take-this-woman-part" except for making faces at Jean. The only time I lose it is when the preacher says, "Who gives this woman. . .?" and my father answers, "His mother and I do."

There are so many Christians at the ceremony that I think "Praise the Lord" is probably a new disco tune. "Praise the Lord that Tena is marrying such a nice Christian young man. . .What a blessing it didn't rain. . .Praise the Lord." etc. I try to point out that there hasn't been any sun in PA since Three Mile Island, but they are all too busy

praising the Lord to hear me.

My mother does not cry like she's supposed to. I figure this is probably because Tena is finally leaving home after living there for 24 years. My mother feels it's her duty to ask me the question usually reserved for Maids of Honor, "So when are *you* getting married, Marianne?" My mother has known for the last 12 years that I am a dyke, but she is not very in touch with reality.

I am to be asked the question at least half-a-dozen times before the festivities are ended. "Are you still unattached?" questions an older cousin. I think he is talking about an umbilical cord so I tell him I certainly hope not. A former Sunday School teacher asks why I wasn't in church that morning and had I yet

found myself a man who was willing to pay my bills? When I tell her that I think her perspective is interesting she says, "Oh, a Women's Libber, huh?" By the fourth time I am asked the question of my upcoming marital status I merely say, "Yes, I am considering it; I'd love to have a wife."

After the wedding vows, the photographer poses us all for pictures. The best man is my partner and we're supposed to face each other and stare lovingly into each other's eyes. "What does he want us to do?" asks the b.m. "Just keep your fuckin' hands to yourself and you'll be fine." I smile sweetly. "Now, say 'cheese,'" commands the photographer. "CACA," I say. The photographer does not think this is funny; some people have no sense of the ridiculous.

The reception itself is to be held at the Chiques (rhymes with dickies) Church of the Brethren where my sister has supplied the food for over 200 people. We are all starving, but there is no sign of the wedding party. They are all out driving around blowing their horns and throwing rice at unwary passersby. Everyone is sneaking ham sandwiches into their mouths because it's not polite to start eating before the wedding party arrives. When they finally show up I let out with a loud, "Praise the Lord." (Well, I am just trying to fit in.)

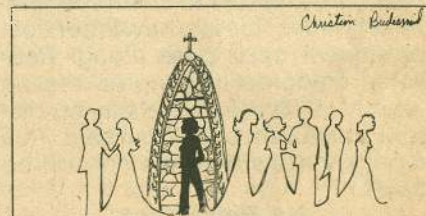
There are no alcoholic beverages at the reception; there are not even any ashtrays on the table and these people never heard of Eugene, OR.

"So where is Jesus?" I ask vocally. "Here in my heart," responds my cousin, Marion (she is not well these days). I ignore this gesture and continue, "I want him to come and change this fruit punch into wine." Although I think the joke is extremely clever and reveals how well-versed I am in Biblical history, Marion instantly claps her hand over my mouth and her sister, Darlene the Mennonite, falls to the floor in a faint.

In this position I notice that Darlene, who is usually attired in black stockings, a black skull cap and a long black dress resembling a feed bag, is allowed to wear a light green dress today. (Because her religion does not believe in "worldliness" of any sort, the silver chrome on her car is also painted black.) Five years ago Darlene heard it announced over a Philadelphia radio station that I, Chocolate Waters, was the editor of a radical lesbian newspaper in Denver. She promptly wrote to tell me that she'd always thought that "Chocolate was a cute nickname," but she now realized the name was the "work of the devil" and I should change it immediately. Darlene believes that "Christ is the head of the church and man is the head of woman."

Darlene's head is named Dick. He is totally attired in black, and I would say that he looks like a buzzard except that would be insulting to buzzards. Dick was delivered from Demon Alcohol several years ago by Christ himself, and has spent those years making everyone else suffer for it. He does not permit Darlene to play the piano or sing because this is too worldly, and he has just forbidden her to take any more pictures of the wedding because he has decided that she "has enough pictures now."

On this note my friend Jean and I decide to take our leave of the proceedings. On our way out we put our own sign on the back of the newlyweds' car. It reads: "Just committed cunnilingus." ■



Roberta Gregory

Chocolate Waters is a dyke poet from Denver and the author of To The Man Reporter From the Denver Post and Take Me Like a Photograph. She is now working on a third book to be published by Eggplant Press.

Sharon McDonald



Roberta Gregory

On a Different Track

By Sharon McDonald

When it comes to sports, I have always been cordial but distant. As a child, the full extent of my athletic repertoire was the repeated climbing of a single tree, in which I would sit for hours daydreaming of an even less active adulthood. I thought that once I grew up I would be free of the daily pressures to run, sprint, jump, slide, skate, hit and catch. I fully believed my adult years would be a fruitful time of affairs of the intellect.

Back then, women were allowed, in fact encouraged, to let their muscles atrophy in peace. But right around the time I would have begun living out my happy destiny as a sedentary grownup, the women's movement arrived. At first I naively thought this meant more choices for everybody; I could be either a chemist or a karate champion. What I didn't know then was that while the karate champion would not be expected to study chemistry on her day off, the chemist had better take up some part-time arduous sport to stay in the feminist ballgame. Only the language had changed since childhood. Yesterday's "Get your nose out of that book," had become today's "Get in touch with your body." This is one of the paradoxes of modern feminism that I still find difficult to understand: nobody tells Rosie Casals she has to edit a magazine, why do they tell me I have to jog?

I should at this point explain that I don't dislike sports just because I'm no good at them, though goddess knows that helps. But simple ineptitude is a mere embarrassment that's easily forgotten. What is *not* easily forgotten is a lifetime of sprains, strains, cuts, scrapes, bruises, lacerations, concussions, and temporary embarrassments. I dislike sports because I hurt myself doing them, sometimes quite badly. The only time I can catch a ball that's hurtling straight at my unique and fragile face is when it takes my last two fingers back three inches farther than they were ever meant to

bend. I can fall and chip a bone on any type of surface you've got, from grass to concrete. I think it's time for this movement to face the fact that some women were just not meant to totter 4 inches off the ground on blades, wheels, a foot long slab of wood or anything else.

Women whom I would otherwise consider caring friends have tried to get me out there into the danger zone.

"Look at you! You call yourself a dyke? Look at that arm, where's the muscle?"

"It's in my fingers, I type 90 words a —"

"You've got to start thinking about your health!"

"If you really care about my health then leave me home where it's safe."

"You don't know what you're missing."

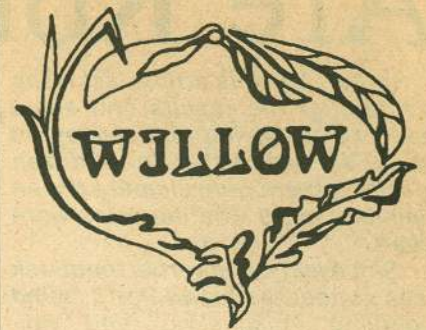
"Yes I do: pain."

It doesn't help that Louise is on the side of the athletes in this. One balmy evening, when she and I were in the first glow of new found love, she chanced to ask what sports I enjoyed. When I said none, that lovely period of idealized romance passed forever into history. Some people are so judgmental.

Louise's childhood had been a whirlwind journey from championship this to championship that. From a modest beginning at prizewinning marbles, she went on to conquer her neighborhood at baseball, ping pong, basketball, skating, and so on. She once remarked to me what an easy transition it had been to go from G.A.A. (Girl's Athletic Association) to G.A.A. (Gay Activists Alliance), without even changing t-shirts.

By now, all I can say is it's a wonder I have retained my sweet disposition and tolerant, loving, giving, accepting attitude through all this. If in the name of woman-power my lover and friends want to take their level of conversation to the absorption capacities of different brands of sweat socks, I'd be the last person in the world to suggest that it's a step down. I would never imply that there might be a better way to spend their time than chasing a ball and browbeating others into doing the same. I mean, if I let a little disagreement with my sisters over their becoming competitive over-achievers turn me into an unsupportive namecaller, well, where would our movement be?

As for Louise and I, we have made a peace of sorts by discovering a physical activity we can do together. Although it is more private than a jog around the local park, I will say that it has satisfied both our wants by providing exercise, sweat, and exhaustion while not requiring a trip to the Emergency Room. Till something better comes along, this will do just fine. ■



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Are Roles Really Dead?

In Part I of this article last issue we printed the results and some analysis of our informal survey on roles. We found that for a dozen lesbians, there were almost a dozen opinions as to whether roles were dead.

Since last issue verbal feedback tells us readers found Part I "mind boggling", "disgusting", and "validating." Please see the letters section this issue for informative written reactions.

All of the women responding to the coupon survey at the end of Part I agreed that roles were not dead in the old gay community. But they were evenly divided on the question of roles among lesbian feminists. Two thirds thought there were no roles in their own relationships, and almost all answered "neither" to the question of whether they identified as butch or femme. The majority equated butch with the negative qualities of maleness, and saw femme as "straight identified." A minority thought butch or femme was "merely the woman's appearance." 50% believe roles are "not good," the remainder think roles are "all right for others" or "ok if they're not oppressive."

We attempted to correlate responses with personal background and/or political identity. But we found the answers of women who were feminist before coming out did not significantly differ from women who were lesbians first. We also found no similarity of response based on self identity as "radical" or "moderate."

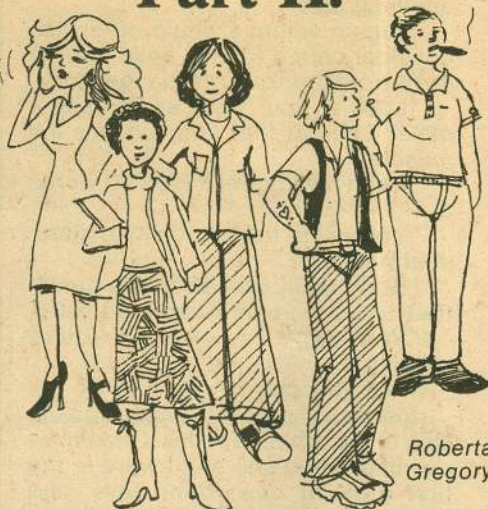
The conclusion of both of our surveys indicates that lesbian feminists look at roles in themselves and others through different mirrors. What mirrors of perception and past experience, we don't know. We hope our initial research will encourage others to explore the power, style, and political factors of roles further.

In Part II we print the thoughts of two other women. Both define themselves as lesbian feminists and are active in the movement. Rita drives a taxi, is anglo and comes from a heterosexual background. Susan is in marketing, is latin, and related to a man "once for a month."

RITA: A LITTLE OF BOTH

"I don't think roles are dead either in the feminist or non-feminist community. I do see some roleplaying in my own life and relationship, but I don't identify as either butch or

Part II:



Roberta Gregory

femme. But sometimes I feel like I'm both. I'm working in the male world where I have to be tougher, more knowledgeable and aggressive. But when I'm not working I'm almost the total opposite of that.

"I think being butch means having qualities that are, either consciously or unconsciously, associated with men. The Classic Butch wants to be like a man, like the coach of my softball team, who's old gay and acts like a man and calls her lover her "little woman" and her "better half." Her lover comes out to the practices in little gold high heels while the coach is in a leather jacket.

"Butch for lesbian feminists just means being tough. Sometimes we kid around and say, somebody's "in their butch" or "into their femme" tonight. But I joke that people are in their femme more often than I say they're into their butch.

"A butch stereotypically dresses in plain dark clothes, has short hair, walks in tough big strides, and there's a certain stiffness about her body. For her, stereotypic dressing up would be wearing ties or tuxedos.

Defining Femme

"A femme is a woman who generally follows the traditional ideas of what a woman is supposed to be. I often think of swish and femme as the same thing. A femme identifies with the traditional female role. She can cut her hair in more different styles and wear what's generally being worn by all women. But because she's a lesbian she still is not quite conforming. A femme is like a lesbian version of a heterosexual woman, but you can still pick up that she's a lesbian.

Defining Dyke

"The word dyke I don't think thrusts a woman into either a butch or femme role. It means lesbian. It's a catchall word with no real connotation other than lesbian. I might be talking about a party I went to and I'll say, "There were a lot of dykes there." And it just means there were a lot of lesbians.

"When I think about what kind of woman I have been attracted to in the past I have to admit that my attractions have been a little bit to the femme side. But the women I've been with have been women who combine the elements of both roles."

SUSAN: A BUTCH IS A BUTCH, IS A BUTCH

"Roles are alive and well and living in all sections of the lesbian feminist and non-gay communities. I think the difference is that it's politically expedient for lesbian feminists to think "we've killed roles." Non-movement women are more up front. From what I've seen 80% of all lesbians have natural behavior patterns that can be seen as butch or femme. I've had relationships with butches, femmes, and women who I think are really androgynous, and none of them made me more or less butch. If I was celebrate for the rest of my life, I'd still be a butch.

A Question of Timing

"For a few years I tried to pretend I wasn't a butch. It was politically incorrect to be an obvious butch going with an obvious femme, so I grew my hair longer, took off my boots, and chose only butches as lovers. Well, I don't know if it 'worked.' I found I loved sleeping with butches and I loved my short hair and boots. But I just could not get it together emotionally with another butch or in terms of style. I'd move to put my arm around her shoulder and we'd bump arms as she was moving to do the same thing. I'd say why don't I move into your place, and she'd want to move into mine. I'd be in a sexually receptive mood and she'd be lying there next to me feeling the same. Timing, to say the least, was off. So I said to hell with this. I went back to femmes - which I love.

Roles Good or Bad

"What's wrong with roles is that heterosexual society has taught us that there are certain powers as-

Continued on page 31

HOLLY NEAR ON TOUR

**"FOR A
NUCLEAR
FREE FUTURE"**

CITIES & DATES:

Portland - Oct 6 • Eugene - Oct. 7

Santa Cruz - Oct. 19 • Lansing - Oct. 21

Phoenix - Oct. 24 • Minn. - Oct. 27 • Denver - Oct. 28

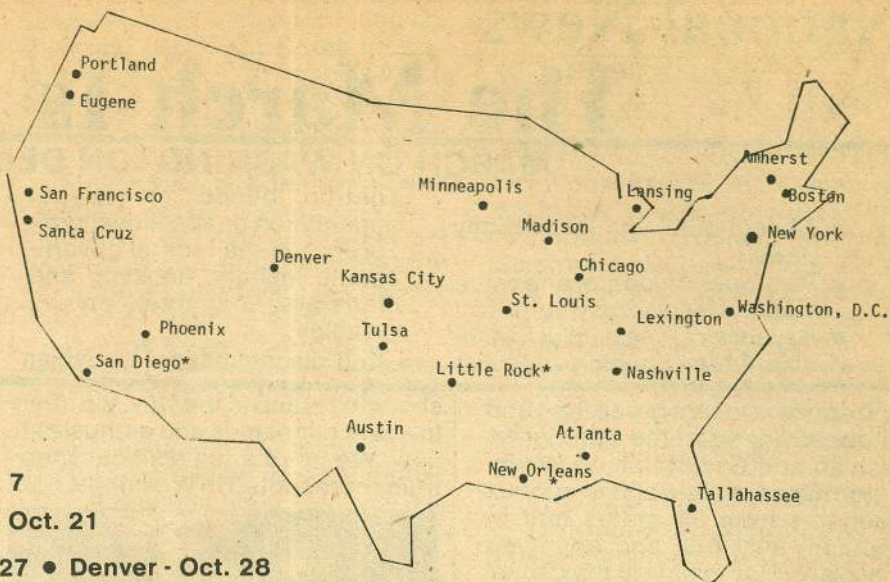
Madison - Nov. 3 • Lexington - Nov. 7 • Chicago - Nov. 10 • Tulsa - Nov. 11 • Austin - Nov. 16 • San Francisco - Nov. 17 • Kansas City - Nov. 25 • Boston - Nov. 28 • Atlanta - Nov. 30 • Tallahassee - Dec. 4 •

Nashville - Dec. 5 • St. Louis - Dec. 7 • Amherst - Dec. 11 • New York City - Dec. 14 • Washington, D.C. - Dec. 15.

*Unconfirmed cities: San Diego, Albuquerque, Dayton, Little Rock.

SPECIAL NORTHEASTERN TOUR (not shown on map): Hartford - Sept 7 • Toronto - Sept. 8 • Durham, NH - Sept. 12 • Buffalo - Sept. 14 • Syracuse - Sept. 15 • Portland, ME - Sept. 16.

Check with your local anti-nuclear organizations & women's production companies for further information.



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NOV. 17TH

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Come to the ACLU Gay Rights Chapter's Law Day Symposium to find the answers to these and other questions that affect you as a gay person. 16 exciting workshops led by experts in their fields. Analysis of Lewd Conduct Statutes, Wills and Estate Planning for Gays, The Law and Transsexuals, Planning a National Legal Strategy, Immigration Law and Gays, Gay Custody Suits, Lobbying and Legislation, Employment Discrimination, F.C.C. Regulations and Media, Police Practices and Abuse, Gay Prostitution, The Marvin Decision-Contractual Relationships, Housing Discrimination and A.B. 1, History of Gays and the Law, Pending Litigation on a National Level.

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The March Is On!

MARCH ON WASHINGTON DEMANDS

- Repeal of all anti-lesbian/gay laws.
- Passage of comprehensive Federal lesbian/gay rights bill.
- Issuance of Presidential Executive Order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation or affectional preference in the federal government, military, housing, and federally contracted private employ.

- End discrimination in lesbian

mother and gay father child custody cases.

- Protect lesbian and gay youth from laws which oppress or harass them in their homes, schools, and social environments. ■

It appears to be a green light and full speed ahead for the October 14 Lesbian and Gay March on Washington. One hundred and twenty six delegates from 31 states met in Houston, July 6-8, and approved final plans. Gay events in the capital have expanded and now include: The March and Rally on the 14th, a National Third World Lesbian/Gay Conference on the 12-15th, a National Gay Business Breakfast also on the 14th, an International Gay Sports Expo on the 13th, a meeting of the National Democratic Party Gay Caucus and a "Night Before" disco, both on the 13th, and Congressional Lobbying Visits on Monday the 15th. Concerts, religious services and other cultural events will also take place.

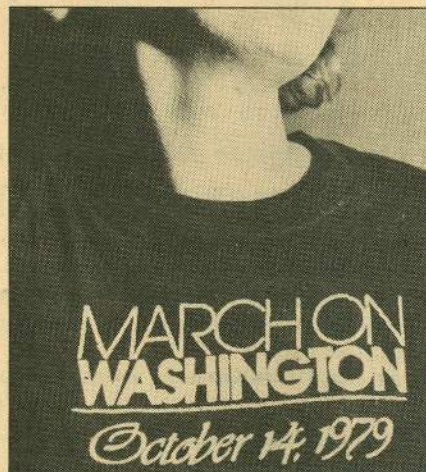
The Houston meeting, termed by spokespersons as "the most racially, sexually, and regionally representative grass roots lesbian and gay conference in history" seated 64 gay male and 62 lesbian delegates. 39 of these were Third World representatives.

Many heated arguments, among them, walk outs by the Massachusetts delegation and the chair of the "Transpersons" delegation, were ultimately resolved as the delegates voted to retain the original demands (see box), and date.

Unity Reached!

Despite a volatile weekend, the real upshot of the Conference is that all major non-supportive organizations and individuals have now changed their minds, or at least are now silent about their disapproval. National gay figures Troy Perry and Morris Kight now endorse the march. "I still have doubts about the timing," says Perry, "but since it's going to happen I want to be there. It's important to have a good demonstration and get our demands taken care of." Kight agrees. "The old guard people will see the gay community as it really is." NGTF was also among the organizations which originally hoped for a better planned march at a later date. However sources close to the organization say that a strong

shouldn't stand in the way, we need to share our names and enthusiasm now. We need a full political spectrum represented in Washington so



The National Organization for Women (NOW) has also joined the growing list officially endorsing.

Women Up Front

Lesbians organized as the Women's Caucus successfully proposed the following: 1) 50% of all positions including planning, leadership, paid staff, speakers, and entertainers will be women, 2) all March publicity will use non-gender specific language, 3) childcare will be provided, 4) entertainment will be screened for racist and sexist content.

Other active caucuses were Third World Women and Youth. Third World women, followed by white lesbians, will lead the march. 10% of all funds raised for transportation will be used to subsidize poor Third World women's travel. The Youth Caucus also won acceptance of a recommendation to endorse the march will be put before the August 18 meeting of the Executive Committee of their Board of Directors and that this recommendation is expected to be approved. The National Gay Rights Lobby has also issued a new statement this time endorsing the March because "(it) is, we believe, one way to begin critical mobilizing. . . in support of the federal bill, H.R. 2074, and in opposition to McDonalds'

resolution." (See story on this anti-gay federal bill).

special Youth Advisory Board which will represent their concerns directly to the March organizing committees.

Other approved resolutions include: facilities for the physically challenged, and use of Spanish bilingual speakers and sign interpreters.

The Houston Conference also decided that each region in the country should be identified under its own banner, that the demonstration be peaceful and non-violent, and that there will be at least one speaker on the issue of discrimination in immigration and naturalization.

Transpeople

Perhaps the most surprising and controversial issue to emerge was that of "transpeople." Transpeople, as defined by the highly articulate Houston based Transpeople Caucus are "transsexuals, transgenderists, transvestites, drag queens, and female impersonators." Phyllis Frye, a transgenderist from Houston, in fact opened the welcoming Friday night session. The original motion made by this caucus called for, "the term Gay Transpeople to be included in all statements. . . The demands as well as policy and media coverage." They also called for the changing of the name of the March to read "Lesbians, Gay Males and Gay Transpeople's March on Washington." This resolution, which was negatively received by the Women's Caucus, was finally modified to read "... lesbian identified and gay identified transpersons shall have equal opportunity to participate in the March at all levels. . ."

TRAVEL PLAN ADOPTED

A second controversy arose when Ray Hill, one of the March Coordinators, sought approval for his National Transportation Plan and office. The plan calls for a 800 toll free number which will give callers around the country names of local travel agents from whom they can buy train, air and bus tickets. Funds to pay for the 800 number and staff would be raised, said Hill, by having

each listed travel agent "donate" 1% of their referral commissions back to the March.

The plan won eventual approval even though some voiced doubts about the need for a *national* travel plan, and others including one lesbian lawyer, seriously questioned the lack of accountability regarding the 1% rebate which could amount to \$120,000.

Finally, the elaborate organizing structure of the March was consolidated such that an Overview Committee will set future policy and interpret "the will of the body in Houston," and a Co-ordinating Committee will implement policy from now until October. The Overview Committee seats two representatives from each of the seven regions. The implementing group consists of the co-chairs of the March's six standing committees, and the co-ordinators of the New York and D.C. offices.

Lesbian Applauds Feminist Men

One noteworthy result of the Houston Conference was that at least some lesbian delegates came away feeling better about working with gay men. Speaking for the resolution to give 10% of funds to

poor Third World women, Chuck Jones from New Mexico chided his brothers, "Now is the time for gay men to accept and embrace the challenge made by our lesbian sisters. We must now begin to take on a feminist perspective."

Statements like this prompted delegate Amy Horowitz of Washington, D.C. to say, "I applaud the lesbian caucus and I applaud the men at the conference who spoke in favor of feminist issues."

The message from Houston —

LATE NEWS: Trouble at the Top

At the Aug. 17-19 meeting of the Policy Committee in Washington, D.C. it became clear that the D.C. office is broke and disorganized, and that New York and Los Angeles leadership is split. West Coast attendees felt East Coasters "wanted California money but not our politics." One example of the political breach is Angela Davis' appearance on the suggested speakers list of New Yorkers, while Ted Kennedy and Joan Baez were suggested by west coasters. So, Calif. delegate Don Amador reported, "they wanted L.A. types to pull out".

on to Washington! ■

For more information call or write the National March Committee in: New York, 156 5th Ave., Room 505, NY, NY 10010, (212) 924-2970. Texas, Box 3624, Houston, TX 77001, (713) 523-6969. Michigan, c/o Mohr, 940 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit, MI 48203. (313) 863-7255. Los Angeles Women's Outreach Committee, P.O. Box 2023, Culver City, CA 90230, (213) 837-6874. In Atlanta, GA, call the Presidential Travel Agency at 455-1007.

The only thing the leadership agreed on was that the grassroots from all of their communities were coming to Washington.

TRAVEL PLAN SCRAPPED

On August 25, by order of the Policy Committee, the 800 toll free number and travel plan were discontinued. The decision was made following charges of fraud and conspiracy which resulted in Greg Carmack being kicked out of the March. Carmack, who was thrown out of Dade County by gay organizers in 1977, is now being sued by Benny Quintana of the Mexico Tours travel agency in Arizona who paid for the 800 number.



On October 14th, 1979, lesbians and gay people, along with their supporters, will march on Washington, D.C. This will be the first national mass demonstration for equal rights by lesbians and gay people in history. Masses of lesbians and gay people will be there to shock the world into realizing that gay people are a large group.

You know that you want to be counted in Washington. But you can't go for some reason. You can still be there.

Be There! Even If You Can't Go.

Buy a Freedom Flag! This is a 12" x 18" flag that marchers will carry to represent you. Flags will be color-coded blue for lesbians, red for Gay males, white for Parents of Gays, and green for straight friends.

Flags may also be customized to indicate your religion, income, nationality, occupation, or that you are a gay parent.

You can direct your flag donation towards the marchers' assistance fund by indicating on the coupon below. For more information on Freedom Flags, contact your local March On Washington office.

Buy a flag for \$25 and you can be counted in Washington during the most important gay event in history.

Be There. Be Counted. Buy A Freedom Flag. And sell one to a friend.

☐ I can't go, but I want to be counted. Send a Freedom Flag for me (\$25.00 per flag) (Check one)

☐ Lesbian (blue)

☐ Gay Male (red)

☐ Friend (green)

☐ Parent of Gay/Lesbian (white)

In Addition, Customize My Flag So People Will Know Support Is Everywhere

Enclosed is \$1.00 for each customized decal that I have indicated below.

Occupation _____

Nationality _____

Income Bracket _____

Religion _____

I Am A Gay/Lesbian-Parent _____

☐ I don't want a flag, but am donating \$ _____ to help out.

If you wish to credit a person or organization, please indicate below.

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GCN-1

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Women Loving Women Denounce Men "Loving" Boys

By Lynne Shapiro

(Editor's Note: In 1976 Canada's largest gay paper, **The Body Politic**, published a controversial article called, "Men Loving Boys Loving Men." Since that time several gay male groups in the Northeast have championed pederasty (sex with boys) as a gay political issue. But pederasty came to the foreground in the spring of 1979 as several gay groups sought to make "Dropping the Age of Consent Laws" a demand of this fall's National Gay March. At this point lesbians for the first time spoke publically. This article explains why New York's Lesbian Feminist Liberation is against any lowering of the age of consent.)

The chief tenets of Lesbian Feminist Liberation's position against this issue are: a) "The tremendous power differences between adults

and children make consent doubtful," and b) repeal of the age of consent laws presents great dangers to young women as 97-99% of molested children and teenagers are girls who are raped or taken advantage of by heterosexual men. As their position paper states, "It is outrageous to consider framing laws in terms of male needs when the vast majority of those affected are female."

One of the chief ideological clashes between the lesbian-feminists and the pederasts, according to Eleanor Cooper, LFL's resource woman on this issue, is that many of the pederasts do not believe rape exists and/or do not understand the subtleties of power abuse in rape situations between minors and adults. It thus appears that the pederast point of view is extremely male chauvinist. It considers only the experience of young males,

many of whom are physically more able to stave off rapists, and denies the experience of young women.

In developing their position, LFL relied heavily on Florence Rush's research on child molestation, which shows vast differences between young women's and men's feelings about their sexual experiences with adults. Rush's studies showed most of the young women felt coerced in some way and carried fear, guilt, and shame about the experience. On the other hand, the boys tended to have mixed reactions. Those who were approached "man-to-man" tended to feel neutral about the experience while those who were coerced like the young women were felt ashamed and guilty.

Cooper also denied that this is a children's liberation issue. "It actually ignores their rights and feelings, but just plays into the fantasies adults have about their, our childhoods.

"People genuinely concerned with children's liberation instead should approach their legal oppression in a much broader sense than just changing the age at which children can have sex. In fact, it's like the so-called sexual liberation of women that made more women available for men while offering no real liberation for women." ■

"Prisoner" Boycott Called

Feminist, lesbian, and gay leaders have called for a boycott against the sponsors of **The Prisoner**, a new series airing (for now) on KTLA in Los Angeles.

Premiering on August 8, the Australian soap opera series "is the worst depiction of lesbians since the 40's" says one activist. In addition to a slovenly psychotic and violent main lesbian character (see **Review**), **The Prisoner** shows its female inmates as one dimensional sadistic or helpless caricatures. Activist Ivy Bottini also says it's racist in that none of the inmates are people of color. Reportedly Australia has "separate but equal" jails, and women of color are in different facilities.

48 hours after the first showing a demonstration was held at the Sunset Blvd. office of KTLA in Hollywood. Extensive meetings with KTLA attended by national representatives of NOW and NWPC, and many local groups and lawyers, failed to produce a cancellation of

the series. KTLA management told the activists they would consider their demands but on Aug. 17 the **L.A. Times** reported KTLA will continue the series.

The Prisoner is being test marketed in Los Angeles. If it is well received (not by us, but by the ratings!), the Grundy Organization of Australia will take their product across the country.

Don't Buy

For this reason activists urge all concerned to call, write, or visit the following, telling them you will not buy their products in any part of the country as long as they continue as sponsors on this program. Cancel credit and charge cards and accounts with: American Express, GEMCO, JC Penny's, May Co., Harris & Frank, Crocker Bank and Brentwood Savings & Loan.

Don't buy cars from: Datsun, Toyota, Fiat, Ford, Subaru, Dodge, Chrysler Plymouth, or Chevrolet. Don't eat at the chain restaurants: McDonald's, Burger King, Sizzler's, House of Pancakes, or Colonel Sander's. Don't buy: Sara Lee pastries, Coca-Cola, Royal Crown Cola, King Cola, Chicken of the Sea tuna, Minute Rice, or Country Time lemonade. Other sponsoring products include: Helene Curtis and Revlon

cosmetics, Tide, Bold, and Ajax detergents, Gaines dog food and Pet All flea collars, Planter's Peanuts, Quaker's cereals, Grenwell beer, Kleenex, Peerless faucets, Knutsen dairy products, Winston tires, and Levi blue jeans.

Try to pick medications other than: Contac, Dristan, Preparation H, and ARM anti-histamines. Don't patronize: Lucky Supermarkets, Builder's Emporium, Lee's Bar Stools, the National Lumber Co., HR Carpet Cleaners, or Emery Express (mail service).

Last, but never least, if you can't cancel Pacific Telephone (Yellow Pages) or Southern California Edison out of your life at least hold up your bill or send a letter of complaint to these two utilities.

Because this list includes half of capitalist America we have set up this page so you can xerox many copies and leave or send them in protest to all the above you have patronized. Also, activist Morris Kight who is involved in the protest, suggests concentrating on Edison, Chrysler Plymouth, and Toyota might be especially worthwhile as these three are especially sensitive to public opinion at this time.

Watch for **The Prisoner** listed in your city in the future and boycott local sponsors also. ■

San Francisco

**White Sentenced
Gain Ousted
Riot Investigated
Lesbian Appointed**

Cop Convicted

Police Officer Daniel Marr has been found guilty of disturbing the peace and battery for his actions at the lesbian bar Peg's Place on March 30.

A jury of 10 women and 2 men agreed that Marr had indeed harassed the patrons of the bar and had assaulted Alene Levine, the door woman, as she attempted to get Marr and his drunken comrades to leave. Highlights of the July trial included an earthquake which sent the jury fleeing from the courtroom, and testimony from prosecution witnesses (patrons of the bar) that was so contradictory the defense could not prove the women were "conspiring" against the officers.

Co-defendant Kevin Guerin, with

Marr that night, was found guilty of disturbing the peace but acquitted on the battery charge. Sentencing for both was scheduled for August 30 and both must also appear before the Police Commission to answer charges of misconduct.

Dan White

Dan White, confessed murderer of gay San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone, has been sentenced to seven years, eight months imprisonment. The sentence is the maximum allowed by law for voluntary manslaughter.

It was the "lenient" verdict of voluntary manslaughter which sparked rioting by outraged lesbians and gay men in S.F. on May 21.

Six weeks after this event, Judge Walter Calcagno sentenced White to the prison term stating, "The reason for this aggravated sentence is to punish the defendant and protect society because of the maximum violence of this offense."

Chief Gain

The May 21 rioting has resulted in another shakeup in San Francisco. Acting on a request by Mayor

Dianne Feinstein, the San Francisco Police Commission requested the resignation of Police Chief Charles Gain. Gain, who was popular among gays, restrained his officers from attacking gays during the riot. For this he was, as reported (July/August) given a vote of no confidence by his officers. Now unemployed, the former Chief has been asked by gays and other supporters to run for S.F. Sheriff. He is reportedly considering this offer.

FBI

The Advocate reports that the FBI has begun an investigation into police conduct on Castro Street (gay ghetto) the night of May 21. The staff and patrons of the gay male bar, The Elephant Walk, claim officers entered their bar and attacked customers injuring a dozen people. Television news footage supports these allegations.

Jo Daly

Elsewhere on the Bay Area front, Mayor Diane Feinstein has appointed Jo Daly, a lesbian and former member of the city's Human Rights Commission, to the Board of Permit Appeals. ■

Mothers

By Claire Krulikowski

The Battle Is Over

The seven year long custody battle fought by Sandy Schuster and Madeleine Isaac came to an end on May 30 in Seattle, Washington when the pair won undisputed custody of Sandy's four children and Maddy's two. Previous rulings had granted them custody on the condition they live apart. Failure of their ex-husbands to file a final appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court let stand the October 1978 decision of the Washington State Supreme Court (see below).

... Or Is It?

The years bring change, but perhaps not as dramatic as we'd wish. Years ago no one dared a custody fight as an open lesbian, and as recently as 1972 no avowed lesbian had won a custody suit. Today, however, one organization, the Lesbian Mother's National Defense Fund, reports approximately five new cases per month.

While public support may be growing, the percentage of successful court fights stands at a paltry 15%. The bulk of cases battle against unswaying negative opinions held by presiding judges.

Thus: • In Mt. Clemens, Michigan, Macomb County Judge Raymond E. Cashen granted custody to a father, ruling, "homosexual lifestyles are not within the purview of modern concepts of morality."

• Alimony and child custody granted a mother in 1972 was successfully appealed recently with the court deciding lesbianism to be a "material change in circumstance."

• Lesbian mothers winning custody are often forced to live apart from their

lover in accordance with the court's decision.

• Wallis Anneberg not only lost custody of her 17 year old daughter, but was then denied visitation rights by Commissioner Herbert S. Ross of the L.A. Superior Court on the grounds that she was "exposing her daughter to lesbian activities." (**National NOW Times**)

Judges who decide cases in favor of the lesbian mother are often unwilling to address the moral issue and state directly that homosexuality does not make one an unfit parent.

When, for example, the Michigan Supreme Court recently stated the "sexual status" of a parent could not in itself decide custody (thus reversing four lower court decisions against Margaret Miller), it could be counted as precedent setting. The fact that a state supreme court made the ruling lends it additional legitimacy in the eyes of other courts.

More often than not, however, the justices have chosen to sidestep the issue.

• In Grand Rapids Michigan, Judge George Cook chose to focus his decision on the "true love, security, affection and counselling" the child would receive.

• Sandy Schuster's and Maddy Isaacson's victory in Washington State Supreme Court was dampened by the court's insistence that the decision "did not involve the question of whether it is proper to award custody of children to lesbian mothers." Implications for future cases are weakened.

Fighting Fire with Fire

Some success has come as a by-product of the husband's unfitness. A

Trenton, New Jersey court just ruled that the two daughters of a lesbian are better off living with her than the father who has a "deviant" personality. The judge noted the girls will have to deal with societal disapproval of their mother's lifestyle, but "this does not necessarily portend that their moral welfare or safety will be jeopardized." Several cases have been won because evidence of the father's character has been more "damaging" than the mother's lesbianism.

Child-Napping

A method fathers have used to win an eventual battle is to simply kidnap the child. Such was the case with a Virginia woman who had custody of her son for 4 years. In 1976 the father and his new wife came to take the boy to dinner. They never brought him back. The woman was advised not to enter a custody battle because she might lose her son altogether.

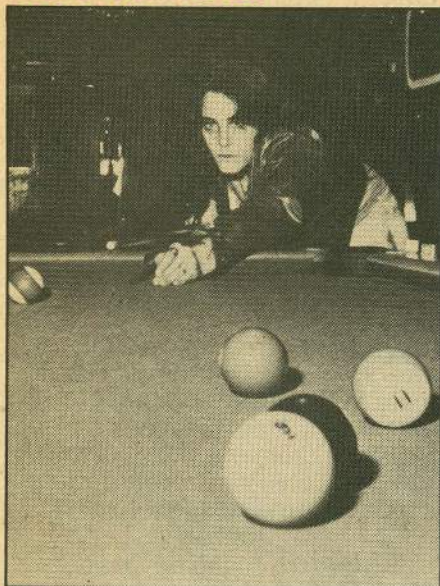
She is now represented by the ACLU, is still fighting, but is currently barred from even visiting her son.

This case demonstrates that no matter how many years have elapsed since having been awarded custody, a father can act legally or illegally to reverse custody. For this reason many lesbians now giving birth are cautioned to leave the father's name off the birth certificate if at all possible. ■

(Trial Strategy In Lesbian Mother Custody Cases: The Use of Expert Testimony is now available from The National Lesbian Mothers Defense Fund, 2446 Lorentz Pl. N., Seattle, Washington 98109. Booklet tells mothers what to expect in court and what their lawyer should be doing.)

Letters

More On Roles



A SECRET DISCUSSION

Dear Tide,

I welcomed your article on roles. I think the recent resurgence of discussion about butch/femme roles is part of a wide-spread search for definition, identity, and security in a world of material, spiritual, and political madness and insecurity. Historically, people always return to more conservative familiar patterns during times of insecurity. And roles are conservative, rooted in sexism. But I think it's exciting that we are talking about and acting out roles at this time as well. Because, while it sure makes life simpler to define oneself as a butch or a femme, I'll be interested to see what happens with this exploration. I honestly believe that feminism has exploded the possibilities for all women today, whether we identify with the women's movement or not.

Feminism has radically changed the ways we can and do relate to each other, in an incredibly short period of time. I believe that attempts to refashion who we are in the terms that predated feminism, are doomed to failure on some very important level. We have created the bare beginnings of new ways of talking, loving, learning, playing, working, and living together. We do in fact strive for equality in our personal lives more than ever before, we do have more options in our lives. These things are real.

I also think that feminism's contempt for and repression of discussion and acting out of roles has been partially destructive. In a sense it's been an arrogant sleight of hand to assume that we could suddenly,

imbued with our new magical power as feminists, transcend the basic images and roles that the society ingrains in us. Images that in fact our own subculture has replicated in its own terms. We live in a world fragmented by patriarchy, reinforced by capitalism, where dualities, (male/female, butch/femme, boss/worker, dominant/submissive, yin/yang) are all we are allowed to know. These dualities mirror the fragmentation of our whole lives: workplace/home, reason/emotion, etc. It's idealistic to think that we can suddenly will those divisions to disappear. They are profoundly embedded within us.

My own experience is that almost every single lesbian I know, old or new gay, privately thinks in terms of roles in some way or another. I'm not saying that every dyke I know sees herself as butch or femme, but she thinks about roles, checks out sexual and emotional dynamics in terms of them. What's scary is that feminism's negative bias against roles has made those dialogues and thoughts private and isolated, not part of a collective discussion (except maybe with a lover and then often not in time to prevent pain.) People often feel guilty for even thinking or feeling anything about roles. We have made it difficult to have genuine political or personal discussions about basic issues of power.

I think confusion, misunderstanding and all kinds of more insidious things, like classism, have abounded because of our excluding roles from legitimate discussion. For example, my experience in several women's communities is that in the name of feminism, butches are disdained for being "male-identified", but lots of butch behavior is given much more power. A pervasive, secret disdain for femme behavior was common. Confusion!!

Another result of not talking about roles is that we have not been able to explore the important cultural differences between working class and third world femmes and middle class femmes.

So, I think the discussion is exciting. We have to allow ourselves honesty and openness about roles. We have to tolerate all lesbian ways of survival, including adopting, or readopting roles. Only by confronting power in our personal lives and culture, in language and images that we all understand, can we then really gauge where we are, and invent new language and images that will match the actual, changing reality of our lives.

Torie Osborn, Ukiah, CA

NO PLASTIC LADY LOVERS

Dear Lesbian Tide Sisters:

My lover and I are not into "roles"; both of us are Dykes!!! (And that's a compliment to any of the lesbians we meet or know!) Although Bertie has a "hardhat", and I do most of the "housedyke work", we share in much of the cleaning and cooking pretty equally. Despite the "housedyke" image I'm every inch as "butchy" as Bert is (that is to say tough, but in the male-identified sense of the word). I may be short and large breasted, but I make up for it by wearing only jeans, vests, shirts, caps, and thick soled dyke boots. . . no jock shorts!! And as for Bertie, she is taller and wears the same style clothes, we often trade off things, forgetting whose is whose. We both had longer hair several years back, but that went out with dresses and diets. I can not understand a Lesbian getting behind a male-identified sense of "beauty", either by wearing make-up or being turned on to women that do. Frankly, those women scare me, ever since I was growing up in the late 50's, early 60's; there were no real wimyn to emulate. (Until some years back the media had me so programmed that I thought I wanted a plastic lady lover, out of loneliness and a confused sense of reality).

Femmes are women who are uncomfortable without their facade, who look at Radical Lesbians and say "They're apeing men." Well, I happen to love wimyn and despise Patriarchal values placed on all people. . . including people I feel are buying into the system unaware. Bertie and I agree that men are tying us off from our roots, by telling us we aren't real women; their ideals are diseased and futile to a woman's existence! Why should I buy the myth I'm impersonating a man, when some women impersonate male "drag queens". . . Besides, men look much better in spike heels and make-up.

Yours in Dykenery, Karen "Sappha" Dalyea, Long Beach CA.

FEMME STYLE DEFENDED

Dear Lesbian Tide,

Christine is correct ("Butch/Femme" July/August '79) when she states that the disdain and contempt displayed by lesbians toward "femme-dressed" lesbians is no different than heterosexual sexism. Except, perhaps, that it can hurt more.

In the past I had been amused at women who condescendingly assume, without knowing me, that I dress for men or try to pass as straight. What I now feel is anger.

When a great part of my day and too much of my energy is spent dealing with the ignorance of men, I resent having to contend with it from women — those to whom I should not have to justify my existence or appearance.

I dress to please myself and to do otherwise would simply be to react to the rules of others, gay or straight. I choose to set my own rules and demand to be respected as I am, in the same manner that I respect all other women who choose to dress as they please.

Elizabeth Pagedale

POWER IS THE BIGGIE

Dear Tide,

I really feel power is at the heart of the role issue and that for lesbians to exert power over one another is anti-feminist. I don't feel roles are a simple matter of personal preference to be arrived at in the same light as clothes (except when we consider the politics of spike heels for instance), or who does what jobs around the house (unless one person is disempowered by the job expectations).

Power and control in relationships are the biggie for me and I am highly critical of role oriented behavior among lesbian feminists for that reason.

I am glad **Lesbian Tide** is dealing with the issue and hope you'll do more on the politics of roles. Thanks, Sue from Arizona.

More on Dykes

IN DEFENSE

Sisters,

I am a dyke and as far away from Doris Davenport's description (Letters, **Lesbian Tide** July/August '79) as a woman could be. I wear skirts & blouses as well as jeans & shirts. I have *never* treated a woman in the same manner (leering, etc.) as a man; and in my recollection this attitude has been that of wimmin who specifically do *not* identify as dykes.

I wonder where Doris got her (negative) stereotype of dykes, so very different from my own personal experience: is she adopting the patriarchal definition of dyke? Is she agreeing with the patriarchy's life perspective of polarization, saying that if a woman doesn't look and act as a woman is supposed to, she must have all or most of men's attributes?

The last several words of the letter ("cut your throat") sound very hostile to me; they sound just like her description of dykes.

In Sisterhood, Osa, Santa Fe, NM.

THE GODDESS DIKE

Dear Tide,

To the women who are wondering who the goddess named Dike is, this information is from **Themis**, newsletter of the Susan B. Anthony Coven No. 1.

"Themis is the mother of Dike, who represents The Way. Dike is the supreme Goddess of Natural Order, the way things are, the seasons following each other, the way the solar system affects us, the way human life unfolds. She is often portrayed as wind goddess, she permeates all, and she herself is ever virgin. Sometimes she too is represented as a trinity.

Dike presides over every hour, over every minute of Life, plus in the Underworld where the sense of time is no longer important. The Queen of the underworld, Dike, is most important religious function; she who reigns over the dead certainly does so over the living. A sense of mystery is derived from this mother-daughter team. Through Social order, Themis seems to be separate from Natural order and almost the opposite of her. But only in Social Order is the concept of the natural order perceived, hence the Mother Themis, is the womb of all important understanding. Blessed be, Z Budapest, Los Angeles, CA.

THE LINK

Dear Lesbian Tide,

The Triple Goddess in Her guise of Justice is Themis, Dike, and Nemesis. Themis means "order" and it is She who represents the Wheel which spins the fate of the community. Dike*, meaning "natural order," is the Wheel of individual order and it is She who spins the fate of each woman's life. Nemesis is "divine vengeance" and spins the Wheel which calibrates the other two, keeping them balanced, in tune. Together they can be related to concepts of Asian origin. Dike, as the inner path, geared to universal harmony, is the Way, the Tao; She is also "dharma." With Her mother Themis, and daughter, Nemesis, we have "Karma."

In another guise, Dike is the daughter of Nature. (That's right, folks, *nature* — as in patriarchal "crimes against. . .") In this form, She sometimes uses the name Fortuna and distributes fortune to mortals. When a man shows himself ungrateful for this fortune, and, e.g., boasts of his riches or refuses to share to alleviate the poverty of others, Dike's daughter, Nemesis, steps in to set things right. (The Wheel eventually comes around. . .)

As is the nature of the Lady, all of these Goddesses can be found interchangeably in myth. Dike is Fortuna to the Romans; but they invoked Her as Nemesis when they wished to indicate that they were taking up arms in the cause of justice (Themis).

Also as Fortune, it is Dike for whom the first pair of dice were invented and named, and to whom they were dedicated (at Her temple at Argos).

Dike is a Goddess of the ocean, the moon, and the trees. As the Maiden Goddess of Spring, She is related to Aphrodite, another daughter of the sea. As mother, She is the moon from which the egg was dropped to Argos bearing Helen and Clytemnestra, the Sister-Queens who rebelled against their patriarchal conquerors and reinstated the Old Religion. As Crone, She bears the title, Adrasteia, "the inescapable", and related to the Oracular Crone of Autumn and the Furies.



"You don't suppose men will get credit for this too, do you?"

In other myth, Dike is Fortune and Justice, and Her sisters are Eirene (Peace), and Eunomia (Wise Legislation and Order). Together, they are the Horae, the Hours or Seasons. As such, they bring order to nature and society, controlling the cycles of the Earth and Her womyn.

Dike's primary symbol is the Wheel. Others include the ash-wand, dice, the cornucopia, and scales (balances). She manifests in the Justice, Crone (Death), and Wheel of Fortune cards of the Tarot. Holydays associated with Her would be the Solstices, especially Summer when, as Nemesis, She devoured the Year-King; and the feast day of Vesta, August 13th.

Blessed be, sisters. Caryatis Cardea, Berkeley, CA.

*Her name is found in most works spelled Dike, Dice, or even Tyche. It is traditionally pronounced Dy-kee, Dy-see, or Dyka. This should not deter us from calling Her "Dyke", if we wish. The Goddess is alive.

Letters Continued on page 18

CORRECTION. . .

PATRIARCHY MARCHES ON

In regard to your lack of accuracy on the Bay area: "Gay Pride Day: Whose Birthday is It?" by Jeanne Cordova (*Lesbian Tide*, July/August '79) "With its reknowned diversity and acceptance of differences, the San Francisco March has not been taken over by the sexist sections of the Gay male community." Unfortunately, the reverse was true. The Parade committee's Co-chair, Sue Davis resigned from her paid job along with other Lesbian members of the March, Media, Celebration, Medical Emergency, Music/Marching bands and Wimmin's Outreach Committees, because of the Gay male power and ego trips. This year's gay freedom day program almost excluded us (Lesbians), featured soft core pornography, and was insulting and degrading to us Lesbians. It's obvious who's running the show and it's NOT in our best interest. It's definately anti-Lesbian/Feminist. Your (*Lesbian Tide*) anti-separatist attitude is disturbing, especially since you don't even understand, according to what you have printed in the past, what separatist philosophy is/means. You constantly exclude us or insult us.

It's disturbing that you don't even recognize that the Lesbian Dianic witch movement exists and that it is actually a separatist movement though not considered as such. And it is a major movement. All of the patriarchal/male heterosexual laws came from male religion. We are determined to defeat patriarchal/male heterosexist religion, and with it goes male supremacy and its symbols, "In god we trust" on every coin, dollar of the realm, the bald eagle (bird of prey), & E Pluribus Unum (Love of many) ad infinitum, ad nauseum. Even the new Susan B. Anthony "silver" dollar has the same crap written on it and is co-opted in size. It's barely a bit larger than a quarter!

Blessed Be, Merry Part, Amethyst, Berkeley, CA.

P.S. Also you only cover San Franciscans and ignore the East Bay/Berkeley. We had a celebration a week before the one in S.F.

Editor's Note: We encourage East Bay/Berkeley women to send us news and perspectives from your area. Anyone interested in becoming a regular correspondent from that area, please write us.

NON-COLLABORATION

Dear Tide Friends,

On my submission for the article ("Gay Pride, Whose Birthday is It? last issue) on New York lesbian participation in Christopher St., I scribbled on the bottom of my copy that Eleanor Cooper helped me with the piece. My article also started out quoting both myself and Cooper. Perhaps this implied my piece was a collaboration, however I should have made it clear that Cooper helped me greatly with dates and places, but did not concur with all of my ideas and opinions. Therefore, she should not have been co-credited as she was in the first part of that article.

Also, the pieces stated that New York lesbians held separate rallies from 1976 to 1977. This should have read 1974 to 1977.

Thanks so much, Lynne Shapiro, New York Correspondent.



CORRECTLY SPEAKING

Dear Editors:

Your article of July/August '79 concerning the (Bay Area) Lesbian Caucus contained several inaccuracies which we would like to correct.

First, the headline, "Lesbians Back Feinstein, but not Britt" is wrong. The Caucus discussed endorsing Mayor Feinstein, but did not reach a decision to do so. Nor did the Caucus endorse a District 5 candidate or in fact any political candidate, even though many of us are individually supporting Kay Pachtner.

The Lesbian Caucus did not come together as indicated by your article as a response to Harry Britt's

appointment, but was already formed by that time. The Caucus began as a group of Lesbian Feminists active in the gay movement who sought a needed interchange of support and information. This coming together was accelerated and intensified by the assassination of Harvey Milk. One of our first actions was to support Ann Kronenberg as his successor. Finally, Carole Migden's candidacy in no way split the Caucus, as your article states.

Sally Gearhart and Celeste Newbrough for the Lesbian Caucus.

THE LESBIAN CAUCUS: Priscilla Alexander, Elizabeth Callaway, Jean Crosby, Sally Gearhart, Jane Gurko, Roma Guy, Donna Hitchens, Deborah Kelley, Paula Lichtenberg, Phyllis Lyon, Ruth Mahaney, Del Martin, Celeste Newbrough, Pat Norman, Kory White.

LONE SOLDIER?

Dear Lesbian Tide,

I was out one evening with my lover and another lesbian couple, and we decided to stop and get some ice cream. While standing in line an arrogant jock type boy and his seemingly mindless "chick" standing near us were making derogatory remarks under their breath. "Odd balls, they really are gay."

I turned and glared at them and said loudly, "Ya, we really are gay!" They lowered their eyes to the floor in astonishment. There was stone silence in the place.

Susan, one of the other wimmin I was with, who I respected for her strong feminist attitudes, was standing very close to me. She nudged me and whispered "Cool it."

Back at the car she started in again. "I'm glad there wasn't any trouble because I wouldn't have backed you up."

I felt betrayed. "It's nice to know that my friends would back me up," I announced to the three of them. They laughed nervously. Susan started joking about being there to pick up the pieces of my broken body and having me reassembled. I laughed at her attempt to make light of what had happened.

Ironically, earlier that evening we had been at Susan's house intellectualizing about our pride and strength as radical lesbian feminists. Susan had said "People who stay in the closet are weak."

If we don't support each other in the small but important ways, how can we expect to bring off collective revolution? No one can be in the closet, it hurts all of us.

In Revolution and Sisterhood, Paula Facine, Los Angeles, CA.

Editorial

Tide Endorses March

Until now we have made no official endorsement of the Oct. 14 March on Washington. Instead we have extended full coverage so our readers could sort out this question for themselves.

We have never seen anything politically wrong with the Oct. 14 march. Our questions were over planning and timing. Though many of our hesitations remain, time draws near, and we believe now is the time for unity on this issue.

Many oppressed peoples have marched on the capital in the last decade and we believe gays will have to return many times. In this context we see Oct. 14 as the first march of many that must take place through the coming years.

Lastly we note that more Christian lobbies have formed in D.C. and they are planning a national march in the spring of 1980. History has shown we do best to stay on the offensive, so perhaps it is wisdom in hindsight that we will be in Washington before, instead of after, them.

We therefore believe it is in our collective best interest for all lesbians to support this idea now and make ourselves visible on Oct. 14. ■

From Us

Thanks to all of you who answered the random sample survey in your last issue. Keep them coming if you still have them. We will be analyzing the results of this survey and our 1978 survey in October and will print some results next issue.

We need photographers and writers to help us cover the October 14 gay march and the late August Michigan Women's Music Festival. If you were at the Festival or plan to be at the march please send us your thoughts in letter or article or news notes form. We'd also like photos. ■

CORRECTIONS Last issue: The photo of Lucia Valeska (pg. 14) was taken by Donna Gray. Sue Cooke took the photo on pg. 29, the photos on pg. 24 & 25 were shot by Jai. The graphic on pg. 27 by Sue Burden was based on a photograph by Joy Schneider Kendra.

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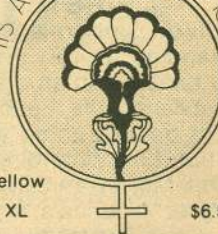
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Shortcurrents



Jane Fonda is once again the center of controversy in her bid to be seated on the California Arts Council.

FEMINISTS SUPPORT FONDA

The Los Angeles Woman's Building and 14 other art related women's organizations have mounted a campaign to get the California Senate to reverse its rejection of Jane Fonda. The activist actress was named to the California Arts Council by Gov. Jerry Brown but the Senate, accusing her of treason because she visited Hanoi in 1972, said she was not fit to represent the people of that state. The Woman's Building feels the rejection "has serious ramifications for any artist who makes social awareness a vital element of her art." They think Fonda's rejection is also, in part, a result of the political power struggle going on between Brown and his Senate. The organizations urge all California women to write their Senators. Letters received have been running 10 to 1 against Fonda.

LESBIAN RIGHTS AWARD FIRST

Southern California Women for Understanding, a 400 member Los Angeles based lesbian organization, has established the Lesbian Rights Award, to be presented annually in recognition of outstanding contributions. Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, founders of America's first national lesbian organization (the Daughters of Bilitis), have been named as first recipients of the award which will be presented at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel September 15. The awards event is the first of its kind held by and for lesbians. SCW Chair Myra Riddell explained, "Even within the gay movement, the work of women has not been recognized. It's high time women honored women!" Former Presidential Assistant Midge Costanza will MC the event. Those on the event's sponsoring committee include: Bella Abzug, Ed and Nancy Asner, Tom Hayden, Senator Joseph Montoya, Assemblyman Richard Alatorre and Willie Brown, Jr., Supervisor Ed Edelman, Deputy Mayor Grace Davis, Councilman Joel Wachs and feminist lawyer Gloria Alred.

COORS IN TROUBLE WITH RIGHT

In what must be one of the greatest ironies of right wing politics, Adolph Coors Co. is now being attacked by the far right. Under boycott from the gay and women's movements for discrimination, Coors recently began advertising in gay papers* and announced that it had put a non-discrimination clause in its personnel policies. **Spotlight**, a "white right" weekly tabloid, heard about this and charged that Coors was recruiting "perverts." **Spotlight** (circulation 200,000) has now called for a boycott against the troubled brewery. (Sasha Gregory.) (*Coors' ad was turned down by this publication.)

GUESS WHO'S NOT COMING TO DINNER?

Judy Chicago. The feminist designer of the elaborate multi-media art project known as "The Dinner Party" is facing cancellation of showings. The Seattle Art Museum, the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery, Hirshhorn Gallery in D.C., a Canadian museum and two San Diego museums have cancelled dates to show her work. Excuses given include: "afraid to do it," "not a work of art," "it's okay if you like to look at vaginas," and "not enough room." Letters of support should be sent to: Through the Flower, P.O. Box #1876, Santa Monica, 90406.



The Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance House and staff

OLDEST LESBIAN CENTER

The oldest lesbian center in the country, the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance Center, celebrated its 7th birthday this summer. The Center was begun in 1972 as the first women's meeting of this Georgia city's Gay Liberation gave birth to ALFA. As a cornerstone of lesbian organization in the southeast, ALFA has birthed a newsletter and many organizations and projects which are housed in its Center at 1326 McLendon Ave. in Atlanta.

DESSIE WOODS STILL FIGHTING

Dessie Woods, a black woman who has been in prison since her 1976 shooting of a white would be rapist, is in need of money for her legal defense and the support of her two children. She was sentenced to 22 years in the notorious Hardwick, GA women's prison where she has been beaten, drugged and confined in the nude in solitary. Contributions may be sent to: NCDDW, P.O. Box #92084, Morris Brown Station, Atlanta, GA 30314.

NUKE-FREE AND HOMOPHOBIC

Washington, D.C.'s **Blade** and Atlanta's **Atalanta** report members of the gay men's contingent in the recent national anti-nuke march were beaten up by others in that march. Police reportedly stood by as the gays from Hunter College, NY were assaulted. Charges against the assailants were later dropped due to insufficient evidence.

NO FUNDS FOR WOMEN

A Ford Foundation study has found that 0.6% of all foundation grants made in 1976 were to women's projects. The reason? In the words of Esther Schacter, study supervisor, "women's programs touch economic, political and social issues that challenge many accepted public policies and traditional lifestyles." In a word, sexism. Five out of six trustees are men. Also, most of the 0.6% goes to nationally prominent women's organizations, not local grass roots groups.

MORE CHURCH UPROARS

It appears we are indeed everywhere including in the high ranks of the Christian Science Church. Members and officials are now battling it out on the gay issue. Having fired a high ranking lesbian (see last issue), the Methodists are also still arguing whether gay is acceptable or not. At the annual New York Council they referred this decision to their Judicial Council (their "supreme court").

DYKES AGAINST NUKES

Dykes opposed to Nuclear Technology (DONT) has been formed by New York lesbians to give a visible lesbian presence in the anti-nuclear movement and to enable lesbians to participate more fully in anti-nuke actions. DONT organized a speakout about Three Mile Island last spring and marched in D.C. at the May 6 anti-nuke march. They are now organizing affinity groups for East Coast legal demonstrations and civil disobedience action. Contact them at The Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St., NYC 10011 or through the Lesbian Switchboard (212) 741-2610.

DRAFT WILL HURT ERA

Pending now before Congress, HB 4040 is a bill which will reinstate the draft. If passed, all males turning 18 after Jan. '81 will be eligible, and the bill states that women will be considered for registration pending ratification of the ERA. Feminists warn that anti-ERA forces have already begun to use this fact ("vote for the ERA and you'll be drafted") in their literature. C.A.R.D., Coalition Against Registration & the Draft, urges feminists to join them in defeating this law. Contact Mary Salyn of CARD at (213) 831-9085, or join local feminist efforts.

STEINEM DECRIES NATIONALISM

Speaking at the National Women's Political Caucus convention, Ms. editor and feminist leader Gloria Steinem said, "I am a feminist before I am an American." She later expanded, "Nationalism is a restricted political form which endeavors to imply that people own portions of the earth because they are sitting on them." Steinem also said President Carter "doesn't take women seriously" and called him "incompetent."

MISCELLANEOUS

According to **Mother Jones**, Anita Bryant is planning two new broadcasting projects, a syndicated daily radio program and a 90 minute T.V. special. She will promote "old fashioned values" in both.

* * *

Two women in Mobile, Alabama, were arrested for loitering in the parking lot of a gay bar. They are filing suit in protest of this law which is used to harass gays and blacks.

* * *

Essays by women of color to be published in a Radical 3rd World Feminist Anthology are solicited by Gloria Anzaldua. Send by October 15 to her at 948 Noe St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

* * *

NGTF has another opening. Media Director Ginny Vida, has resigned effective Oct. 15, and they are looking for her replacement. Vida has been with the organization for 4 years.

* * *

Last issue it was reported that two South Dakota gay high school students went to their Senior Prom together. Katherine Day reminds us that two lesbians were the first to perform this courageous feat. As reported (May/June & July/August 1976, **Lesbian Tide**), Katherine and her lover attended her prom together in Philadelphia that year.

* * *

Lastly, there are many exciting Conferences being held across the country during the next two months. For details on them see "CONFERENCES" in the Classified Ads section. ■

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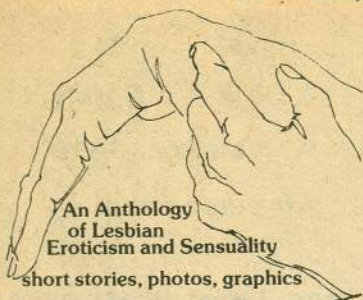
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Rights of Passage

Wearing gay buttons has caused some public inconvenience to many but Carl Hill's decoration may become famous as the button which freed many. Hill, a photographer for the **London Gay News**, was stopped at the San Francisco airport in late June by the Immigration & Naturalization Service because he was wearing a gay pride button. His lover, arriving with him but wearing no button, was not held.

Hill faced hours of detention and questions before making contact with lawyers from Gay Rights Advocates. National uproar followed as gay lawyers and activists have been looking for a clear-cut gay test case for many years.

The results? In July the U.S. Public Health Service told INS it would no longer give medical examinations to determine if a visitor was homosexual, and in August the U.S. Government dropped its case against Hill.

However, just as District Court Judge Stanley Weigal was dismissing Hill, Customs officials were once again harassing gays at the San Francisco airport. Tourists Javier Cruz Garcia and Miguel Martinez were being told to take the next plane back to Mexico.

Round Two was in process as we went to press.

The PHS told INS it will no longer play ball with them. (INS routinely refers detained gays to PHS to be certified as "homosexual" before deporting them. Such was the case with Hill.)

Reacting to five years of pressure from The National Gay Task Force and members of its own profession, PHS refused to examine Hill. "We are divesting ourselves of this (responsibility). . ." a high PHS official told the gay newspaper **The Blade**.

A furious and embarrassed INS said they don't need PHS and "can exclude homosexuals if we so choose."

At this point Washington took over, and the result is that Leonel Castill, INS Director, issued an order that gays are free to enter and leave the U.S. According to the **Bay Area Reporter**, Castillo ruled that until Congress acts definitively gay visitors will be placed on a "deferred inspection status." She or he will not be subjected to a hearing or "medical" exam. Don Knutson, staff attorney for Gay Rights Advocates, called this ruling "a major victory for gay people."

Lesbian Denied

Zenaida Porte Rebultan is a 37 year old Filipino who has been denied admission to the U.S. because she is a lesbian. Her parents and four siblings who live in America have "drained our financial, moral, and psychological resources" in attempt to have her join them here. In a May letter to California Senator Alan Cranston, Ms. Rebultan's brother wrote, "(Zenaida) is left behind with no one to comfort her in time of needs. The Rebultan family who chose to adopt the great United States, the leader of human rights abroad and the defender of democracy, as their future homeland, are denied the freedom to be with one of the members of their family just because she is a lesbian. . ."

On August 2, Sen. Cranston introduced a private bill on behalf of Zenaida. His request calls upon the U.S. Senate to grant Rebultan a waiver so she can be reunited with her family.

He also called for congressional action "to bring these statutes up to date."

Letters of support can be sent to Cranston at: Office of U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston, 229 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Christian Bloc

Congressman Larry McDonald, backed by the right wing lobby Christian Voice (see last issue) has submitted to Congress a bill which seeks to give employers the right to decide whether or not to hire gays.

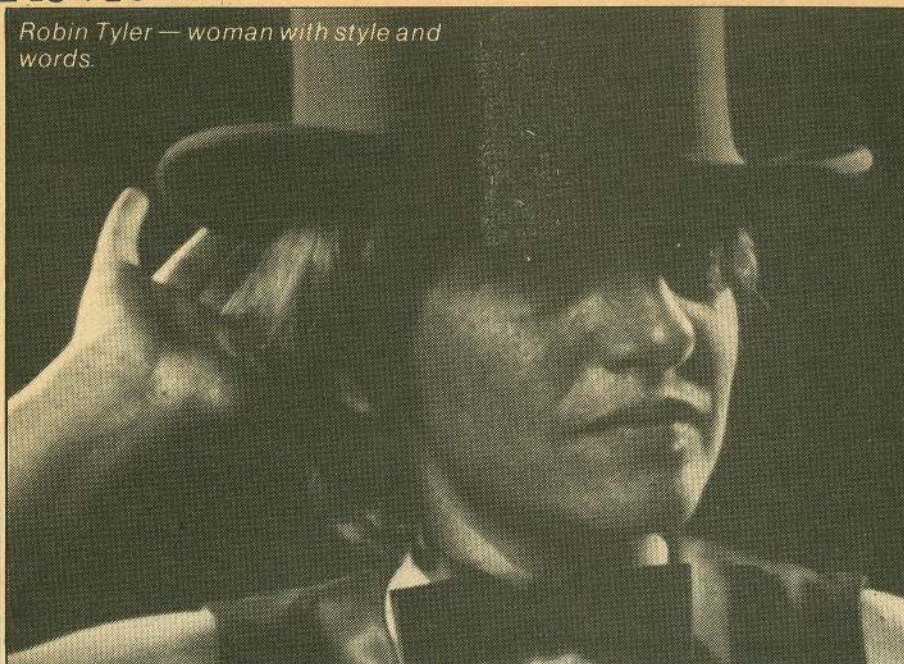
Steve Endean, National Gay Rights Lobby spokesperson, says the bill has no chance of being heard in the foreseeable future, but he warns of a greater danger. "One could speculate that the bill (was introduced) primarily as a publicity ploy for Christian Voice and that they will use it to mobilize anti-gay sentiment in Congress." Appearing to confirm this objective, Gary Jarmin of Christian Voice told **Gay Community News**, "Our main objective is to defeat the gay rights bill. The fate of our bill is not crucial."

The Right seems to be coalescing as two more anti-gay lobbies, The Moral Majority and One Nation Under God have formed.

These two lobbies, headed by Rev. Jerry Falwell and Pastor John Jimenez, respectively, have planned an April 1980 March on Washington. They hope to bring one million fundamentalists to the capital. Endean says Christian Voice is considering joining them in this effort. ■

Reviews

Robin Tyler — woman with style and words.



Robin Tyler

By Cheri Lesh

Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Groom. By Robin Tyler. Olivia Records. 1979.

This album is an ambitious attempt to blend radical lesbian politics with radical lesbian humor. Of course, as Robin pointed out to me in the interview "Born Again Woman" (September/October 1978) humor is inherently political. The trick is, it also has to be funny. Capturing that mix of seriousness and laughter is like walking the edge of a razor blade while juggling — very difficult! The results on this album are mixed; sometimes Robin carries it off with aplomb, sometimes a routine seems forced, torn between a snicker and a sob of anger. Tyler's routines make me think, and pleasantly punctuate (or puncture) my thoughts with an occasional giggle or snort of appreciation, but they do not grant me the release of laughing out loud. This album is not for the woman who wants a good belly laugh she doesn't have to think about. It is for the revolutionary who wants to smile through her tears.

The best cut on the album is Robin's spoof on Political Correctness; it plays a deliciously wicked counterpoint to the introductory "Hooray for Hollywood" song, and it is risky. Much of Tyler's work on this album is cute but not risky; disparaging remarks about male genitalia are sure to get a revengeful laugh from an all-woman audience. But it's not very creative — any woman in the throes of divorce can come out with better cracks than the trite insults Robin regales us

with. 'Balls and pricks' jokes seem just as tiresome to me as 'tits and ass' jokes.

Tyler's real artfulness comes through in her one-liners. Other comics have throw-away lines, but Robin's can be recycled indefinitely. She finishes the marvelous story of her brief career as a female impersonator with a flourish; "Well, why shouldn't I be a female impersonator? Phyllis Schlafly is one." Other barbed gems include: "The only people who hate Anita Bryant more than gays and lesbians are music lovers," and "Phyllis Schlafly is to women what the Hindenburg was to flying."

Tyler describes this album as "a history of how I came out — done with humor." At times she slips into the temptations of self-advertisement, but at her best, this approach produces wry, mock insights; "I always thought that monogamy was a kind of dark furniture that you polish."

Other highlights include Tyler's description of a Hollywood unemployment line: "Aries, line A, Pisces, line B, Sagittarius go home, it's a bad day," and a rap on why our most infamous political parties should change their symbols from donkeys and elephants to the prophylactic: "Both parties should adopt the prophylactic because it can be blown all out of proportion, it protects the pricks and gives one a false sense of security while being screwed."

"**Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Groom**" is, for the most part, a happy marriage of humor and politics. Oh, don't mind me. I always laugh at weddings. ■

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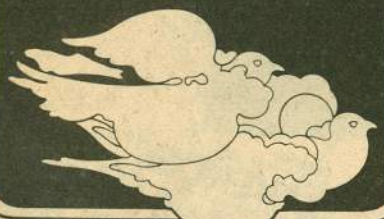
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A Picture of Ourselves

By Penny Grenoble

**Sunday's Women: A Report on
Lesbian Life Today.** By Sasha
Gregory Lewis. Beacon Press. \$9.95.

In **Sunday's Women**, Sasha Lewis covers the territory, from the roleless experiments of the more sophisticated urban communities to the demoralized closeted lives of women in the backwaters.

Divided into three parts, the book flows easily, following the chronological order of an individual life. Part One tells what it is like to grow up lesbian in America — the isolation and fear, the trauma of finding friends and relationships. Part Two moves into the process of settling down and trying to establish a home and lifestyle against the background of an antagonistic culture. Part Three is a report on what she calls the "politicizing of lesbian liberation."

The book's greatest strength is also its greatest weakness. Lewis, in sound journalistic style, presents her facts plainly and straightforwardly, undoubtedly in an attempt to minimize the emotional effects of a potentially loaded topic. Constructive criticism and commentary is left to the reader and to those who will examine in more detail the issues she raises — roles, civil rights, the fulfillment of individual potential in a hostile environment, and radical lesbian feminism, which she labels lesbian fascism.

Although offering lesbians a nurturing account of our lifestyle, the book also seems to have been conceived for a wider audience: A substantial introduction provides historical background more suitable to the uninformed than the initiated. In that light, she sells some of her material short — potential lesbian contributions to solving contemporary social problems which she alludes to but leaves hanging — managing dual career relationships, single parenting, etc. If one desirable side-effect of her effort was validating the lesbian experience to nonlesbians, she misses some good p.r. opportunities. And if another purpose, which it seems to me she couldn't afford not to address, is to remind us all of the injustices to which society subjects lesbians, she fails to exploit the poignancy and universality of her material.

But these are minimal flaws in a book which has been well-conceived and well-written and hopefully will be widely read. ■

Truth Still Barred

By Cindy Frazier

The Prisoner: Cell-Block H.
KTLA-TV, Los Angeles, CA.

If you think one lesbian makes a TV show worth watching, plug into Channel 5 at 8 PM on Wednesdays (if you live in Los Angeles). But be prepared for Franky, with her painful scowl, exaggerated slicked-back hair and slouch.

Prisoner: Cell-block H is a popular Australian serial about a women's prison. It's an unusual setting for a 20th century morality play, but the morals remain the same. The educated middle-class woman who had every right to kill her husband is punishing herself stoically and mercilessly. The weepy blond who protests her innocence is reviled and harassed by other women prisoners. And Franky is that all-important part of any morality tale — the fool, who serves as comic relief, evil catalyst and scapegoat.

The prison staff is of two types: saint and sadist. The Governor (an Aussie term for warden) is fair, just, but firm. And then there's dear old Mum, who comforts and counsels prisoner and screw (guard) alike, and serves tea to the Governor.

Probably the most offensive thing about **Prisoner** is the notion it projects that women in prison is a cute idea for television entertainment. Although women in prison have never been as publicized (or listened to) as men in prison (Eldridge Cleaver, George Jackson, Jean Genet) this is not because they have nothing to scream about. In fact, women who are sent to prison are often serving longer terms for similar or lesser crimes than men. Women under 18 have been incarcerated for years "for their own good" for the crime of running away from home or drinking.

In short, this show on women in prison is dangerous in that it turns our most victimized population into soap-opera. A lesbian in prison is even more victimized, forced to do the hardest labor, subject to the most humiliation. In the face of this, Franky's attitude is the most refreshing thing about the show. She tears up a room when they separate her from her friend/lover, then is put in solitary confinement. I don't think, though, that I'll continue watching the series. I don't want to see them try to make a "lady" out of her. In the script of this show, they just might succeed. ■

L.A. Calendar

For Calendar listing call: Paula Facine Wed. — Fri., 839-7254.



Bobbi Bennett (left) & Diane Abbitt: activists at large and now attorneys at law. These two Los Angeles lesbian mothers have just completed 4 years of supporting themselves thru law school. Their extra curricular activities included founding the first L.A. Lesbian Task Force of NOW, working as IWY delegates in Houston in 1977, and participating in the formation of New AGE. What does being a lesbian lawyer mean? "It means you try a little harder, you have a deeper understanding," say Bennett.

MECLA MAKES KNOWN CAMPAIGN DONATIONS

The Municipal Election Committee of Los Angeles, a gay fundraising group that contributes money to pro-gay candidates, announced that it has awarded more than \$127,000 to the campaigns of candidates since 1977.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The Los Angeles Christopher Street West Association will honor Gayle Wilson and Leonard Matlovich as Woman and Man of the Year at an Awards Ceremony Sept. 25. Wilson, a Los Angeles lesbian, owns her own real estate firm in West Hollywood and was instrumental in raising a great deal of money during the Prop. 6 fight. Matlovich fought an historic battle against the U.S. Air Force a few years ago and is now active in the San Francisco gay community.

SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE NETS \$4,000

Speaking at a June event sponsored by the L.A. Chapter of the Gay Academic Union, lesbian author Rita Mae Brown helped raise \$4,000 for G.A.U.'s 2nd annual scholarship drive. Grants from the first drive last year were made to lesbians and gay students. This year G.A.U. has set a goal of \$25,000 for their drive. Donations for this worthy effort, as well as applications for scholarship forms may be sent to G.A.U. at P.O. Box 927, Los Angeles, CA 90028. Application

forms for scholarships are also available at this address. Forms are due by Sept. 30th. The awards will be made at G.A.U.'s annual national conference to be held at UCLA over the Thanksgiving weekend. Further information about the Conference next issue.

WOMONSPACE — LESBIAN FEMINIST CENTER?

Womonspace, located at 237 Hill St., in Santa Monica 90405, is discussing changing its name to "Womonspace — Lesbian Feminist Center" and its focus. All women are invited to participate in Sept. 1 and Sept. 15 (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.) discussions on this topic. Women who cannot make the meetings but want their opinion on the name change heard are welcomed to write to Womonspace.

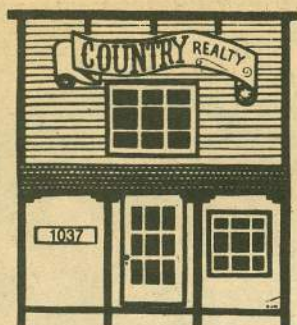
Womonspace also has a lot of new groups organizing and needs volunteer staffers during September. If you can volunteer call Judy at 870-8884.

COUNCIL NEEDS US

Since the L.A. City Council passed our gay rights bill in June, letters *against* this ordinance are running 50 to 1. They need to hear from *US!* Write: City Clerks Office, 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 395, City Hall, L.A. 90012. and tell them to direct your letter to your council person.

Continued on page 26

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ACLU GAY RIGHTS CHAPTER: General
Meetings Wed., September 5th and
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Wilshire Blvd., 3rd Floor. Leonard
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NOW: San Fernando Valley Chapter
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WOMAN WRITERS: The Woman's Building has open mike readings for women to read their works, first Sunday of every month, 7:00 p.m. Call 221-6161.

LESBIAN RAP: Every Sunday 8:00 p.m. Women's Center, Cal State Northridge, 9428 Etiwanda. Call Women's Center 855-2780, or Marybeth 838-3469.

LESBIAN RAP: Every Monday at Women's Resource Center, Cal State L.A. 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

ABORTION RIGHTS MOVEMENT: Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Feminist Women's Health Center, 1027 Crenshaw Blvd., Call 936-7219.

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Once upon a time a princess with yellow hair was best friends with the black crab. Then everything started to go all wrong between them and they moved away to opposite ends of the countryside. Is this really the end of the story, dear crab? Please write. 769 Argonne, Atlanta, GA 30308.

Interested in meeting with other lesbians thinking of having and/or raising a child. Karen 396-9956 or 396-3433 (messages).

Wanted: Information concerning already existing lesbian communities or ideas concerning the planning and developing of one *anywhere*. Anyone interested please write: Pat Lind/M.J. Sollinger, P.O. Box 1039, Port Hueneme, CA 93041.

Writing book on alternative printing, publishing and distributing. Wanted: lesbian input to compile *complete* directory of alternative print shops and book distributors. Please send names and addresses to Jim Dandy, Rt. 3, Box 550, Siletz, OR 97380.

We need other lesbians to join our established rural communes. Here women and men (primarily hetero) live and work in a gentle culture dedicated to equality, non-sexism, and the good life. Government is participative; income is shared. A wide tolerance of diversity allows us to be open. We need and want the support of women who share our lesbian & feminist perspective. Write: Margaret, Federation of Egalitarian Communities, L-2, Twin Oaks Community, Louisa, VA 23093.

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Lesbian feminist seeks to share 2 bedroom house (w/garden) in Ocean Park...near beach. \$225/month plus util. Cat ok. Call (213) 396-8252.

Lesbian/dyke separatist, dianic witch. Non-smoker, drinker, vegetarian. Female identified. Herbalist, gyn/ecologist, love, health, pleasure oriented. Single monogamous, biophilic hag of magik. Seeks similar dyke, companion, spinner, 35+ years. Share 2 bedrm. apt. \$75+ ut. Artemisia, Box 1394, 2000 Center St., Berkeley, CA 94704.

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JOB: Copy reader for Lesbian Tide needed. Takes about 8 hrs. every 2 mo. Can be done your home or in our office \$20 per issue.

JOBS: The County CETA office at the Los Angeles Gay Community Services Center has work experience positions available. To be eligible for CETA Title I program you must meet the federal low income standards and live in Districts 2 or 3 (West Hollywood, Culver City, etc.) Contact GCSC, an equal opp., aff. action employer. 1213 N. Highland Ave. (213) 464-7400 ext. 297.

JOB: L.A. GCSC also seeking lesbian trainer for peer counseling program. Volunteer now, but may become CETA position on Oct. 1 if you are qualified. (\$540-\$600 mo.). Call Raymonde Sendral (213) 464-7400 ext. 257.

JOB: Going to the March on Washington & need travel \$\$? You can make it by hawking the TIDE at the march in just a few hours! You keep 40¢ per issue you sell. We mail you shipment. Write or call immediately. (213) 839-7254. TIDE PUBS. 8706 Cadillac Ave., L.A. 90034.

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FOR SALE: Feminist Bookstore entering its 7th year. For info contact Pat Kelly, 415 N. 4th Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705.

REMAILS: 50¢ a letter, send addressed stamped letter(s) inside another envelope. Mail receiving/holding \$4.50 a mo. Mail receiving/forwarding \$7 mo. plus postage. Artemisia, Box 1394, 2000 Center St., Berkeley, CA 94704.

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WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW But Were Afraid to ask your Lawyer is the topic at the Sept. 11 women's program mtg. of G.A.U., 8 pm, 408 Mavis Ave. in Mt. Washington area. For directions call 225-0899. Lawyers Diane Abbitt & Bobbi Bennett will talk about the legal pitfalls of lesbian relationships. Also, on Oct. 9 all women invited to "An Evening of Lesbian Poetry". Call 656-0258 for location. Both events \$3 donation.

WOMEN RECONSTRUCTING THE WORLD: writers series at the Woman's Building. Susan Griffin (Sept. 14-15), Wanda Coleman & Kate Braverman (Sept. 21), Ntozake Shange (Sept. 28-29), Deena Metzger & Kathleen Mullin (Sept. 29), Honor Moore & Victoria Rue (Oct. 5, 6, 7). Workshops: Collaborative writing, how to market your manuscript, lesbian writing, poetry dynamics, & more. Call 221-6161 for pre-regis. & details.

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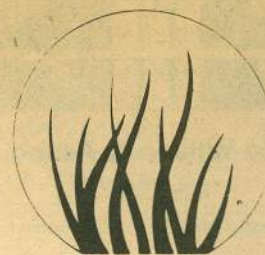
WOMAN TO WOMAN Feminist Bookcenter: 2023 East Colfax, Denver, Colorado. We have books covering political theory, herstory, lesbianism, health, and more, as well as children's books and a large selection of poetry and fiction. We also sell posters, buttons, t-shirts, records and even menstrual sponges. We serve as a womanspace and womancenter, providing referrals to women who may need help or information. In addition, we sponsor monthly coffeehouses. If you would like any info on feminism in Denver, come see us!

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Write On, Woman! writer's guide can help all women who write to conveniently find the women's alternate press periodicals best suited for their work and can help women looking for places to advertise their products and services. Gives editorial policies, readership, circulation, size, etc. for over 80 periodicals. \$4.05 postpaid payable to Lynne D. Shapiro, 345 W. 87th St., NY, NY 10024.

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CONFERENCES

LESBIANS COLORADO: Women from Rocky Mtn. Region will gather in Denver at the Landmark Inn for 1st Colorado state conf. Sept. 28-30. For info write: Lesbians Colorado Box 18767, Denver, CO 80218.

WOMEN AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY: New York Conf. Sept. 15 & 16. Write W.A.P., 579 9th Ave. NYC, NY 10036 or call (212) 594-2801. March on Times Sq., capital of porn, on Oct. 20.

NOW's 12th ANNUAL NATL. CONF. (Oct. 5-7) will be at Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles. Vital issues: ERA Homestretch Ratification Campaign & election of nat'l. officers. Fri. disco & Sat. concert (see ad). \$35 registration. Write or call: NOW Conf. Office, Box 8067, Van Nuys, CA 91409. (213) 887-6517. Hotel reserv. close Sept. 12.

HEALING OURSELVES/WOMEN & HEALTH: Oct. 5-7 at Heathcote Center, 21300 Heathcote Rd. Freeland, Maryland. Call (301) 329-6041.

GAY CATHOLICS will meet in Chicago Oct. 26-28 for Dignity's nat'l conf. Write: Dignity/Oasis Center for Human Potential, 7463 N. Sheridan Rd. Chicago, Ill. 60626.

GAY SEMINARIANS 2nd Annual Conf. hosted by Harvard Divinity Sch. Nov. 8-11. Contact: Joy Przeworski, Harvard Div. Sch., Cambridge, MA 02138.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Abbott & Bennett (attorneys at law) Diane Abbott: business formation, partnerships, corporations, contracts, real prop., bankruptcy. Bobbi Bennett: family law, child custody, alternative lifestyle agreements, wills, probate, immigration, personal injury. 9200 Sunset Blvd., L.A. 90069 (213) 273-2380.

Mary J. Madsen (attorney): general practice (civil & criminal). Consultations \$15. 3440 Wilshire Blvd. #601. L.A., CA 90010. (213) 385-4385.

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Valerie Kirkgaard, B.A., M.T. (therapy): lesbian indiv. & couple counseling using integrated therapy techniques including I-ching, regression, gestalt & bodywork. (213) 258-5543.

Barbara Price (attorney): family law, child custody/visitation, alternative living agreements, small business law for women, entertainment law including copyright, publishing, contracts, and performance agreements. 1714 Stockton St., San Francisco, CA 94133. (415) 433-6790.

Jan Stone (attorney): estate planning, probate & business. 6210 Wilshire Blvd. #303, Los Angeles, CA 90048. (213) 934-0512.

Majorie Rushforth (attorney): specializing in feminist and lesbian issues, civil and criminal. Penthouse Law Suite, 505 City Parkway West, Orange, CA 92668. (714) 937-0610 wk. or (714) 540-2186 hm.

Teresa De Crescenzo, M.S.W. (therapy): counseling for lesbians, children & adolescents. Sliding scale fee. 6399 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1007, Los Angeles, CA 90048. (213) 653-3496.

Betty Berzon, Ph.D. (therapy): lesbian couples, individuals & groups. 6399 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1007, Los Angeles, CA 90048. (213) 653-2912. By appointment.

Linda Barrone, MFCC (therapy): individual relationships & groups, feminist therapy for lesbians. 1640 5th St., Suite 220, Santa Monica, CA 90401. (213) 391-6321.

Judith Goodman, MA, MFCC (psycho-therapist): provides indiv. & couples with a safe place to grow & explore using verbal and/or Reichian therapy. 1640 5th St. #220, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (213) 836-5313.

Dorothy Morris Compton (attorney): divorce, child custody, sex discrimination, personal injury, business. Union Tower Bldg., Suite 840, 21515 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503 (213) 316-0160.

Roles

Continued from page 10

sociated with roles. Ridiculous things like if you wear a dress, you can't make a pass at someone, if you are a butch you can't go to pieces when you've lost your job, if you're femme you can't run the joint checking account, if you wear make-up people will treat you less seriously.

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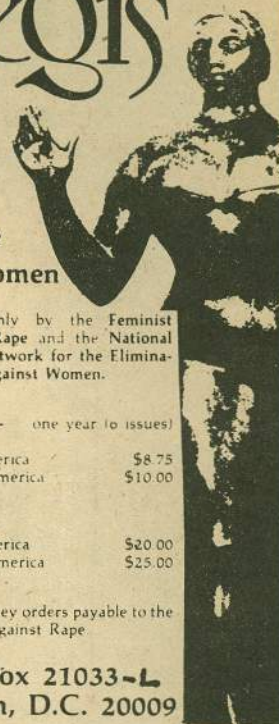
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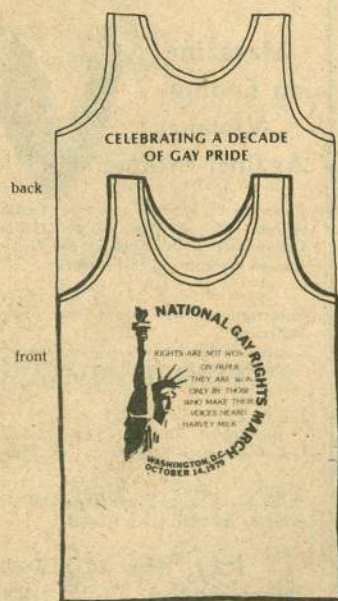
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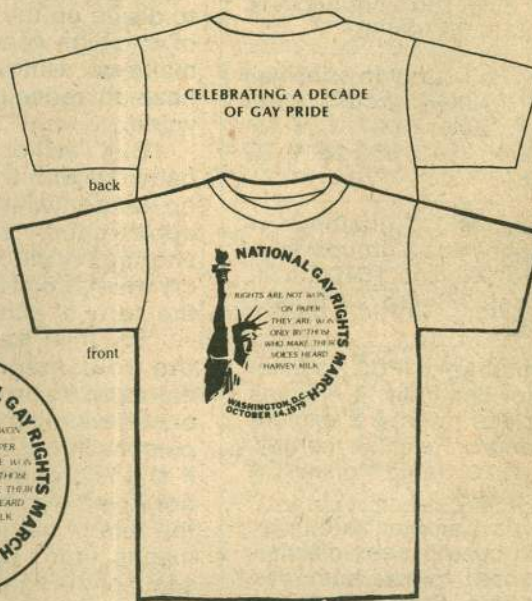
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